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OU announces student fees

SEE **PAGE 22**

New scheme to help you keep fit

SEE **PAGE 17**

Ex-convict robbed OAP days after jail release

BY ADAM GRINSELL

adam.grinsell@mk-news.co.uk

AN EX-PRISONER who robbed a partially blind 89-year-old man in his bed by holding a pair of secateurs to his throat has been jailed indefinitely.

Barry Anderson, 35, had only been out of prison for ten days when he broke into the retirement bungalow in Bletchley where the vulnerable victim was sleeping.

On Thursday, Luton Crown Court was told the victim woke to find Anderson standing over him demanding his money and pressing the pruning shears under his chin.

The terrified victim told him where his wallet was and Anderson, who was drunk, took some money and bank cards.

He then searched the property, disconnected the telephone and the personal alarm and took his panic alarm, telling him not to get help for at least half an hour.

But the victim managed to raise the alarm and told police he thought he recognised his attacker's voice as someone who had done some gardening for him.

The defendant was arrested later the same day, on March 25 this year, and still had some of the stolen property on him.

Anderson, of no fixed address, pleaded guilty to robbery and two charges of fraud, by using the stolen bank cards, and was sentenced to an indeterminate sentence for public protection.

He was told he will only be able to apply for parole after he has served the equivalent of an eight-year sentence, but it will only be granted when the authorities are satisfied he is no longer a risk to the public.

Judge David Farrell QC told him: "Your victim was extremely vulnerable and was in enormous fear. This offence has had serious repercussions and consequences. His quality of life has deteriorated."

A statement from the victim's daughter-in-law said she had seen a tremendous change in him and he had become 'a prisoner in his own home'.

Miss Silpa Mistry, defending, said: "The defendant wants to express his extreme regret, remorse and apologies to the victim.

"He has very limited recollection of what he did because he was intoxicated.

"He was wandering the streets near his former partner's home and ended up in the back garden of the bungalow. It was not pre-planned and the weapon he used he found inside the property."

Performers from Festive Road delight the crowd at Campbell Park's World Picnic on Sunday.

■ **For more pictures and the full story, turn to pages 24 and 25**

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Wolverton's blooming marvellous

A TOWN'S floral credentials were under scrutiny yesterday when Britain in Bloom judges paid a visit.

Every year since 2007, Wolverton and Greenleys in Bloom has received a silver-gilt award in the Urban Community category of the Thames and Chilterns regional competition, so will be hoping to improve on that this year.

The judges visited sites right across the town, including the Secret Garden, Wolverton Park, the square, the community orchard and Ardwell Lane in Greenleys, and will deliver their verdict later in the year.

Last year, their efforts were rewarded with three special awards - the heritage-based Local Roots Award for Wolverton Park, Best Video Presentation and a commended certificate for Wyvern School.

They hope to add to these this year after extending the 'greening-up' scheme, where streets with no front gardens are spruced up, to include Buckingham Street and planting extra bulbs.

Ted Smith and Norman Parker from the Royal Horticultural Society with Hilary Saunders and Denise Ilett, chairman of Wolverton and Greenleys in Bloom

Stove fumes could have killed camper

BY ADAM THOMPSON
editor@mk-news.co.uk

A FORTY-NINE-YEAR-OLD man is thought to have died from carbon monoxide poisoning after he used a gas barbecue in his tent to keep warm.

Vincent Clare of Church Walk, Bletchley, is believed to have used the stove inside the tent while he was on holiday with his wife Alison at Red Shoot Camping Park, Linwood, in the New Forest.

Mr Clare, a service manager, is understood to have placed the stove outside before going to sleep, but was killed by the fumes which remained in the canvas.

An ambulance was called after the victim was reportedly found by friends in his sleeping bag on Friday, July 15. A spokesman for South Central Ambulance service said: "We were called to a campsite in Linwood at 8.03pm with a report of a male in a life-threatening state.

"An ambulance and co-responder were in attendance and he received treatment, but was declared dead at the scene."

A postmortem carried out came back inconclusive and more tests will be carried out to find out the cause of death.

One of the owners of the camping park said: "It's a very sad situation.

"We are all very shocked about this and our hearts go out to all of Mr Clare's family and friends."

Hampshire Police confirmed the incident was not being treated as suspicious.

In the aftermath, Peter Cornall, head of leisure safety at the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, said: " We have heard about deaths and serious injuries due to suspected carbon monoxide poisoning in tents, including incidents this summer.

"In the excitement of a camping trip and because of unfamiliar surroundings and ways of doing things, accidents can easily happen.

"Whether you're on your summer holidays, camping for a weekend break or spending time under canvas at a festival, following some simple safety advice means your trip should be memorable for all the right reasons."

Kids take lead and set up Neighbourhood Action Group

A SECOND group of youngsters are clubbing together and going the extra mile to help smarten up their neighbourhood.

Children from Queen Eleanor School, Galley Hill, have set up a Junior Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) to tackle concerns in the community like dog fouling, graffiti, damage to road signs and litter.

They hope that by highlighting these problems, with help from their Neighbourhood Warden or Police Community Support Officer, it will help improve community safety and reduce crime and disorder.

Any problems they find are passed onto the main NAG and Milton Keynes Council's Environmental Helpline to look at solutions.

As previously reported in MK NEWS, a junior NAG has also been set up by children from Orchard School in Springfield.

Councillor Andrew Dransfield, responsible for children and young people, said: "These children are setting a great example. Young people often get a bad press, being labelled as troublemakers and tearaways, but the young members of our first two Junior Neighbourhood Action Groups are quite clearly bucking that stereotype. Long may this continue."

EXCLUSIVE TIMBER LODGES FROM £59,995

Billing Aquadrome is set in 235 acres of beautiful countryside nestled in the royal county of Northamptonshire, the park offers a fabulous range of facilities and an 11 month opening season.

Lakeside views, exciting new Leisure Complex with tropically heated indoor swimming pool, splash zone, water flume and jacuzzi. The Complex also boasts bars and restaurants, a children's indoor play area and internet cafe. Other facilities also include sailing, fishing and watersports, cycling, country walks along the riverbank and much, much more....

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Surveying the damage: Parish councillors Simon Teesdale, *left*, and Ray Yates

Mindless attack on community trees

BY DAN PALMER
dan.palmer@mk-news.co.uk

VANDALS have snapped nearly all of the trees at a community orchard in half, causing hundreds of pounds worth of damage.

Members of the public worked tirelessly to plant the small woodland at Loriner Place, Downs Barn, but their finished work has now been almost completely destroyed.

Volunteers first got to work planting the trees in 2009 following encouragement from Great Linford Parish Council and further planting has taken place since.

The aim was to create a nice area for the community and when work started, Police Community Support Officer Jason Buchan said he was certain it would become 'an excellent place to go and enjoy in the years to come'.

There were 50 apple, pear and cherry trees in all and 41 of them have been vandalised.

Before the planting the area was simply an empty field so the work dramatically transformed the site.

Parish councillor Simon Teesdale said: "I was at the orchard at the weekend planting a tree before it happened, I think the damage will come to about £1,000.

"I feel sorry that some people have to get their kicks by doing something like this."

Mr Teesdale said that some of the trees would be replanted while others could be pruned into dwarf trees.

Police confirmed that they are investigating the incident.

The identification tags of some of the trees were ripped off which has allowed officers to take fingerprints.

Teen's bike is stolen in robbery

A TEENAGER had his head stamped on and his bike stolen in a robbery last Friday.

The 19-year-old was cycling along Bradwell Common Boulevard towards Rooksley in Milton Keynes at 9.15pm when the attack happened.

He had just passed the Chinese takeaway when he was hit on the side of his head by a man and fell off his bike. While on the ground, the man stamped on the victim's head three to four times, then picked up his bike and rode off towards Rooksley.

His stolen mountain bike is black with white stickers across the crossbar of the frame.

The teenager suffered cuts and grazes to his arms, hands and legs and attended Milton Keynes Hospital for treatment.

Police say the offender is white, aged 17 to 19 years old, clean shaven, with short, black gelled hair with a quiff at the front. He was wearing a black t-shirt and grey tracksuit bottoms.

Detective Constable Reg Jones said: "The victim is not seriously injured but was left very shaken by the incident.

"I am keen to speak to anyone who witnessed the incident or recognises the description of the offender."

Anyone with any information about the robbery should contact Det Con Jones on 0845 8 505 505, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Facebook DVD probe is launched

TRADING standards are investigating a Facebook account after it advertised the latest cinema releases 'available on DVD'.

The MK Freeads page – which is an account for buying and swapping items – was seen requesting its 'friends' to send a message for information about new box office movies on DVD.

It's understood Milton Keynes Council received a complaint about the films this week and will be looking into the situation.

Karen Ford, head of the council's trading standards, said: "If anyone offers the latest cinema releases on DVD they will be breaching the law and liable to imprisonment for up to ten years, plus under the Proceeds of Crime Act, they could lose the assets they obtained from committing this type of crime, which may include their home.

"Trading standards always investigate these types of cases as intellectual property theft is a serious crime with potentially deadly consequences.

"On many occasions our defendants end up in jail and lose all of the money they cannot prove came from legitimate means."

MKNEWS BRIEFS

Cyclist in fatal collision

A 30-YEAR-OLD cyclist was killed on Friday after a collision with a car.

The cyclist from Fishermead hit a blue Seat Leon on the V4 Watling Street at 7.35pm and was pronounced dead at the scene.

Anyone with information can contact Sergeant Fraser Chamberlain at Thames Valley Police via the 24-hour Police Enquiry Centre on 0845 8 505 505.

Firm in administration

A HOUSING developer has gone into administration.

Birch Homes (Midlands), based in the city, entered administration earlier this month.

The company had recently completed a development in Fenny Stratford.

RSM Tenon has been appointed as joint administrators and is now handling the affairs and operations of the company.

Take part in charity walk

FAMILIES are being invited to take part in a charity fundraising walk.

Age UK Milton Keynes is teaming up with Big Cow events for the two-mile walk at Emberton Country Park on Saturday, September 18.

All proceeds will go towards Age UK Milton Keynes.

To register online go to www.big-cow.com.To request a registration form email chris.large@ageukmiltonkeynes.org.uk, or call 01908 550700.

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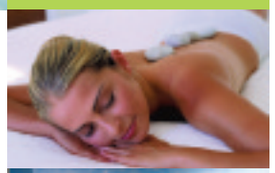

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We also deliver other newspaper titles into the rest of Bedfordshire, Northants, Cambs and further afield.

In addition to our household deliveries, we hand copies of MK NEWS to commuters at MK Railway Station every Wednesday morning between 6.15am and 9-15am.

We also deliver an additional 8,000 copies each week into public buildings, offices, industrial areas, bars, restaurants and shops for people to read that may not live locally and receive a copy at home.

According to the latest independent, audited readership figures, MK NEWS has a weekly readership in excess of 130,000 adults and this figure is growing as we add on more copies to our distribution across MK.

We aim to deliver the best possible service to our readers but if you have any questions or concerns about distribution please feel free to contact our team on the number listed above. Our deliverers earn top rates of pay. If you'd like to join our team please contact the distribution department on the number above.

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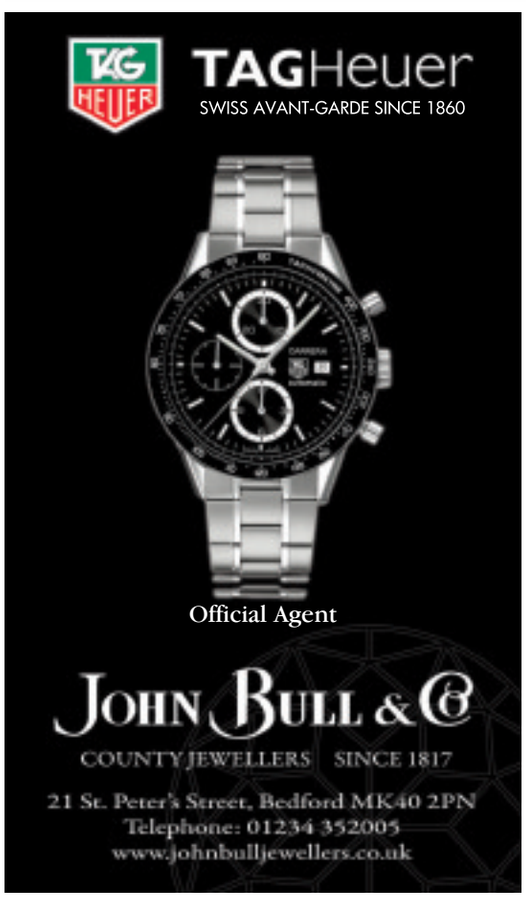

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How to preserve open space

SIR - It has been reported that more than 400 residents signed a petition against plans to build 89 new homes at Windmill Hill Golf Course (Golf course homes decision deferred, MK NEWS, July 20).

It is understandable that residents are against the proposal to build the houses since they are worried that the value of their properties will go down.

Hundreds of houses are being built in every nook and corner of West Bletchley and there is no justification to suggest that 89 houses will cause congestion with the loss of open space.

If there is no golf course, the open space will be lost.

The protesters should take into consideration several factors before rejecting the plan submitted by the course owner Golf Course Management Ltd.

The management has been running at a loss and has to find a way of making the club viable. The only way to do is to allow a developer to build 89 news homes, which is not a large number.

The management wants to build a new, smaller and more viable clubhouse with better facilities so that it can be hired for social functions to generate additional income.

If the planning application is turned down the golf course could close and the land sold to a property developer that may not provide golfing facilities.

The entire issue should decided on the basis of how the open space should be preserved and what form it should take.

Name and address supplied

Speed limit needs rethink

SIR - The plans by the council to impose speed limits on parts of Whaddon Way, Whalley Drive and Melrose Avenue seem to me to be yet another plan without any thought (Residential streets to see speed limit cut to 20mph, MK NEWS, July 13).

As a resident of Whaddon Way, near to Whalley Drive, I have seen how many buses, cars, motorbikes etc regularly speed down the road.

These people are no more likely to take notice of a 20mph limit as they currently do of the 30mph limit. A lower speed limit near schools at certain times makes sense.

A more pressing problem the council should look at is parked cars near the junction of Whalley Drive/Whaddon Way, which regularly cause traffic hold ups and frustration to drivers.

They have recently been quick to put in double yellow lines on other roads, Sutherland Grove, Highland Close etc, but have completely missed a trick with this one.

Also, why has traffic narrowing been put just a few yards both sides of the mini roundabout at the junction of Rickley Lane and Whaddon Way?

Ramps and the zebra crossings are justified due to the three schools close by, but the narrowings just causes congestion and frustration particularly as drivers disregard the rights of way.

Why doesn't the council knock on a few doors and ask residents instead of having obscure meetings that hardly anybody knows about so it can then do what it wants - whatever is the easy option.

David Broom
Sent by e-mail

Speed bumps might work

SIR - I agree with your correspondent regarding reducing the speed limit on Whalley Drive (Letters, MK NEWS, July 20).

Reducing the speed limit will make no difference as the drivers who ignore the 30mph limit will also ignore 20mph.

I have lived in Whalley Drive, near the Melrose roundabout, for 31 years and have only seen two accidents in that time.

Perhaps speed bumps might slow things down if it is such a big problem.

Graham Russell
Whalley Drive, West Bletchley

No need for speed change

SIR - I totally agree with Mr Vaidyanathan (Letters, MK NEWS, July 20).

There is no need whatsoever to impose even more restriction on motorists. I have lived and driven a car in this area for 39 years and I have never seen an accident involving a speeding car, particularly in Whalley Drive.

G Lloyd-Davies
Sent by e-mail

Better ways to save money

SIR - Congratulations to Nick Connors and the Friends of Woburn Sands Library for exposing the sham of the 'consultation review' of MK libraries (MK NEWS, July 13).

The fact that our Tory-controlled council is excluding the option most of us would like – the retention of a fully funded public integrated and professionally staffed library service – reveals that the exercise is flawed. The fear must be that the council is hell bent on privatising the service and/or using untrained volunteers to take the jobs of professionally trained staff.

The tragedy of the situation is that this is completely unnecessary if the Coalition Government was to adopt alternative strategies to reduce the budget deficit.

It could collect up to £120billion each year by rigorously pursuing tax dodgers. It could save £79billion by not replacing Trident. It could save £5billion by bringing home our troops from Afghanistan and £1billion by ending our hostilities against Libya.

These are just some of the alternative measures that could be taken to avoid cutting the public services used and needed by us all in Milton Keynes.

Dave Brunwin
Stony Stratford

Enforce the existing laws

SIR - While I do not agree with Councillor Paul Bartlett's attempts to get a smoking ban introduced in Stony Stratford I do have some sympathy with aspects of his campaign.

I was in Stony Stratford High Street and right next to a bin at the entrance to Cofferidge Close with a facility to stub out cigarettes – there were at least 20 cigarette ends discarded on the pavement.

Rather than ban smoking I feel that the laws that already exist to penalise littering should be strictly enforced and anyone dropping cigarette ends, or any other litter, should face an immediate, on the spot fine of at least £50.

Paul Griffiths
Sent by e-mail

Nothing can beat our NHS

SIR - Just over a week ago my wife and I were sitting watching TV about 10.30pm.

Her breathing had not been clear for a day or so and she was coughing a bit more than normal but felt alright. Then things changed rapidly.

I looked at her and she seemed to be quite pale. She was holding her side as a stabbing pain ran round both sides of her chest. I checked her pulse, felt her forehead and she was ashen, cold and clammy.

I immediately dialled the NHS hotline. Within seconds my call was answered. A couple of quick questions about who and where we were located and then straight onto my wife's symptoms. The lady on the helpline was cool, calm and very collected.

I followed her instructions and she advised me that maybe it was a heart-related problem and she'd be sending medics over as soon as possible.

Within four minutes two paramedics arrived at the door complete with armfuls of emergency kit. In less than five minutes they had her wired up on a mobile ECG and were monitoring her readings, as well as checking her blood pressure, temperature and asking her questions. No panic, no fuss, just very professional.

They had not been in the house more than seven or eight minutes when they told me that it seemed that the pain was not heart-related but my wife needed to get to hospital for further tests. They said an ambulance would be on the way.

Less than five minutes had passed and an ambulance and three more medics had pulled up on the driveway. All five guys were brilliant. Polite, unflappable, totally in charge and kept me informed about what was going on and what was going to happen all the way through.

My wife and I spent all night in MK Hospital. Again a great team checked her out, they even made us tea at 3am while keeping us both completely up to date at all times – totally professional and very understanding.

My wife's okay now and I got to thinking that not only was my wife handled in a totally professional and understanding manner, I was as well. For all that I offer my sincere thanks – so does my wife.

I will argue until the cows come home with anyone who doubts the value and professionalism of our NHS.

I know everything is not perfect all the time – nothing is – but in my book they deserve the title of the best health service in the world. And if you don't agree, I challenge you to find any better!

Name and address supplied

Thanks for your generosity

SIR - Would you please allow me through your paper to thank all the customers and staff at Sainsbury's, Witan Gate, Milton Keynes, for their support and generosity to our collection for the MK Branch of Parachute Regimental Association (PRA) and the British Limbless Ex-service Men's Association (BLESMA), held on June 24 where we raised £1164.39.

All proceeds from the collection go to the above charities.

Ted Johnson
BLESMA welfare representative and treasurer of MK PRA
Shenley Road, Bletchley

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Our ambition will be to make our hospital services even better

"AS A doctor and director of public health I am extremely proud of what the NHS achieves every day. But I know it could be so much better.

Locally we are served by a number of fine small-to-medium-sized district general hospitals.

But we know there are widespread and unexplained variations in clinical practice, and some services are inappropriately duplicated and provided on too small a scale to ensure doctors are confident they are delivering the very best possible standards.

These sorts of problems not only mean the quality of care is not always as good as it could be, but also the NHS can waste a lot of time (both the patients' and staffs') and money.

Given the state of the public finances, we know that we cannot afford to let that waste continue, especially where poor quality is the cause. The stark implication of this is that, without some reconfiguration of services, the NHS will struggle to maintain, let alone improve, the quality of care provided.

For all these reasons, 13 NHS organisations, including the five district hospitals in Milton Keynes, Kettering, Northampton, Bedford and Luton and Dunstable, have decided to work together to consider how services can be improved and arranged so that patients can be confident the NHS will provide them with convenient, high-quality services now and for decades to come.

I am delighted, as well as somewhat daunted, at being asked to lead this review. It is in the very early stages and there will be many opportunities throughout the autumn for patients, the public and local groups to help shape our plans ahead of a public consultation in early 2012.

Patient representatives from the Local Involvement Network have been involved in our early discussions and we are all clear that patients need to be at the heart of this review.

I'm looking forward to the next stage when together we have a chance to design the future of health care for our region – and, if we get it right – to become an example that the rest of the country can follow."

LAST week MK NEWS exclusively revealed the NHS' Acute Services Review may mean Milton Keynes Hospital losing some of its vital services. The review is taking place across the region involving five hospitals and may lead to some patients having to travel to get the care they have been receiving in the city.

This week, director of public health for Milton Keynes, Dr Nicholas Hicks, *pictured*, who is leading the review, explains the reasons behind it.

Community health is put in the spotlight

A CRUNCH meeting is taking place today to decide the future of Milton Keynes' Community Health Services.

The management of the services, such as mental health, health visiting and district nursing, is due to be transferred from the Primary Care Trust (PCT) to another body.

Later today the recently formed Milton Keynes and Northamptonshire PCT cluster will be meeting to discuss who will take over the running of these services.

An NHS source told MK NEWS the services had widely been expected to be transferred to Milton Keynes Hospital, so they could be managed locally, but following the clustering of the PCTs they could now be transferred to another body in Northampton.

Hospital chief executive Mark Millar said any decision must be based on what is best for patients.

He added: "We've made no secret of the fact that we believe patients in Milton Keynes would benefit from Community Health Services and the hospital merging to become a single organisation.

"Both organisations have the best interests of Milton Keynes at heart and also understand the needs of the local population."

A PCT spokesman said: "All the options are under review, but a merger with Milton Keynes Hospital remains the PCT's preferred choice. It is important the right decision is made for local patients and healthcare in Milton Keynes."

Teenager is charged following early hours stabbing

A TEENAGER was stabbed in Fullers Slade in the early hours of Friday morning.

Police were called to the scene on Weavers Hill at about 1am after receiving reports of a serious altercation.

The 19-year-old male victim suffered stab wounds to the abdomen and was taken to hospital in a stable condition, and was later released.

A number of people were in the vicinity at the time and police cordoned off a large area.

They remained at the scene until later on Friday morning.

A 15-year-old boy was arrested and has been charged with GBH with intent.

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Councillor may quit over nursery plans

BY ADAM GRINSELL
adam.grinsell@mk-news.co.uk

A COUNCILLOR has taken the extraordinary step of pledging to resign if a nursery is not reopened by Christmas.

Conservative Milton Keynes councillor Philip Wharton made the promise to parents of children who attended Russell Street Day Nursery, in Stony Stratford, until its closure in December.

The building is currently in a state of disrepair and the children and teachers were moved to The Rowans Nursery in Fullers Slade.

Since then parents have been told the building will be demolished, as this would be cheaper than bringing the building up to an acceptable standard, and the two nurseries would merge.

Cllr Wharton, who attended the nursery when he was a child, claims it would cost £7,000 more to refurbish the building, and as part of his re-election campaign in May he pledged a Conservative cabinet would 'spend the necessary monies to reopen the Russell Street Day Nursery' if elected.

He said: "If the nursery is not reopened my position as a councillor serving Stony Stratford will have become untenable and will leave me no option but to resign my seat.

"I'm giving it until Christmas to be sorted, as a year will have been plenty long enough.

"Russell Street Nursery is the only outstanding Ofsted rated nursery in Milton Keynes and should be protected."

Resignation threat: Cllr Philip Wharton at the closed Russell Street Day Nursery

He says he is still confident the nursery will reopen and is now planning to hold meetings with leader of the council Andrew Geary and cabinet member for children Andrew Dransfield.

A council spokesman said: "Councillors have deferred considering a proposal to merge Russell Street Day Nursery with the Rowans Day Nursery to allow for further discussions between the council and the users of Russell Street to identify the costs of bringing the building up to the required standard and the viability of maintaining the nursery service there.

"Work is underway prior to further consideration by councillors."

Fly-tippers' heavy fines

TWO people have been fined thousands of pounds after being caught on CCTV dumping rubbish at a recycling bank.

Both cases were heard at Milton Keynes Magistrates' Court on Thursday after they pleaded guilty to illegal dumping at Kingston District Centre.

In the first case, Christopher Lunn, 31, of Birdlip Lane, Kents Hill was fined £1,100 and ordered to pay costs of £1,012.06.

Magistrates heard that on May 24 last year, CCTV captured him depositing waste to the side of the recycling banks without attempting to use the facility.

Enforcement officers carried out an investigation which led them to Lunn.

Magistrates also fined Linda Bonsu, 27, of Worth Court, £1,000 and ordered her to pay costs of £1,462.04.

Her offence took place on the same night as Lunn's with CCTV again capturing it.

Bonsu left her car and placed a refuse sack against the recycling banks and appeared to make no effort to dispose of the waste correctly.

Pete Roberts, Neighbourhood Partnerships manager for Milton Keynes Council, said: "We hope these fines send a strong message to those who dump waste."

Fire family are rescued

A FAMILY of four was rescued from a house fire in the early hours of Saturday morning.

Firefighters were called to the blaze in a two-storey terraced house in Clarence Road, Stony Stratford, shortly after 3am and rescued a man, a woman and two boys aged two and five from an upstairs bedroom window.

All four were treated for the effects of breathing in smoke by paramedics and taken to Milton Keynes Hospital.

The house had two smoke alarms in it but neither was working and firefighters are now urging people to carry out weekly checks.

Crew manager Graham Kemp, from Great Holm Fire Station, said: "When we arrived they were all at the bedroom window at the front of the house and we were quickly able to get them out after pitching a ladder outside. Naturally they were in a distressed state as they were unable to escape because of all the smoke. The crews and our control room did an outstanding job."

MKNEWS BRIEFS

Contest was child's play

A SEVEN-YEAR-OLD pupil has won a competition to name a new housing development.

Oxley Park Academy student, Harry Blackmore-Read, suggested Oxley Hills, which was selected by Charles Church Midland for its development near Oxley Park.

Claire Lambert, head of sales for the company, said: "I'd like to thank every one of the children for their enthusiasm and creative ideas."

Open day at Centrecom

A COMMUNITY centre will be holding an open day on Saturday.

Centrecom in North Row, Central Milton Keynes, will open its doors from 10am to 3pm.

School art facility opens

A SCHOOL's new art engineering facility was unveiled on Wednesday last week.

The new building at Denbigh School has been described by the deputy headteacher, Andy Squires, as a 'benefit for current and future generations of students.'

£7m cost for translators

MORE than £7million has been spent on interpreters by a police force in the last decade.

The figures released by Thames Valley Police show costs for translators since 2001 and include £1,220,414 spent in 2010/2011.

A spokesman for the police said: "Interpretation costs are not an optional extra but an integral part of policing our communities."

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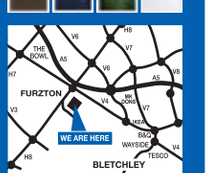

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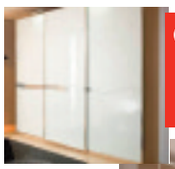

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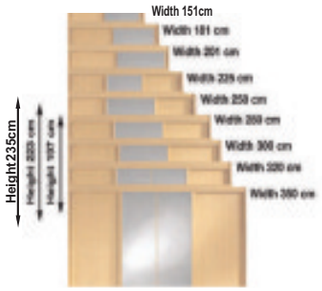

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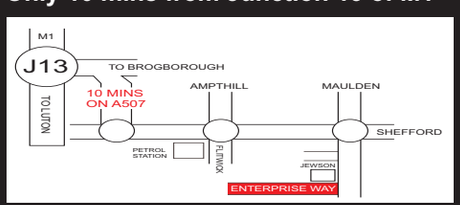

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‘Kick anti-smoker off council’ plan

BY ADAM GRINSELL
adam.grinsell@mk-news.co.uk

PLANS are being drawn up by residents to try to oust the councillor who has proposed a smoking ban in their town.

Following a meeting of Stony Stratford Town Council last Tuesday night, some who are opposed to Councillor Paul Bartlett’s idea have hit back and plan to try to get him to leave the council.

Maureen Maloney, landlady of the Duke of Wellington pub who gathered signatures for a petition against the proposals, is one of those who believes he should step down.

She said: “We are looking at ways we can get rid of him and we’ve got a few options.”

But MK NEWS understands Cllr Bartlett cannot be forced to leave the council and instead must choose whether or not to step down.

Meanwhile, a series of emails between Cllr Bartlett and Father Ross Northing, of St Mary and St Giles Church in the High Street, have been exchanged.

Last Tuesday’s meeting had to take place in the church due to the amount of people turning up to be in the public gallery. At the beginning of the meeting Father Northing asked people to refrain from swearing, although Cllr Bartlett alleges he was subsequently sworn at.

Father Northing responded by saying he did not hear, and if he had he would have remonstrated.

New police car will hit the road

YOU may soon spot a new police community support car out and about on the roads.

The car, based out of Olney and sponsored by Traka, will be used by the city’s Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) mainly on Friday and Saturday nights in Newport Pagnell and the surrounding area.

PCSO Chris Ward said: “Being in a rural area we do need a car. We haven’t got the blue lights or anything, but we can get around pretty nifty if we need to.”

Ready for action: *From left,* Insp Roy Stringer, John Kent from Traka and PCSO Chris Ward

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National award for city's parks

BY ADAM THOMPSON
editor@mk-news.co.uk

Feeding the ducks: Youngsters at Chepstow local park

THREE parks and a recreation ground will continue to proudly fly the flag for excellence.

Leon Recreation Ground and Chepstow, Eaglestone and New Bradwell local parks in Milton Keynes have once again been given the Green Flag award - a national benchmark recognising the best parks and green spaces in the country.

All the winners have the right to fly a Green Flag in the park to let residents know they have been recognised as being among the best open spaces nationally.

The scheme was first launched in 1996 and winners must apply each year to renew their Green Flag status or be granted it for the first time.

Neighbourhood engagement manager for Milton Keynes Council, Maurice Barnes, said: "We are very proud of our excellent open spaces in Milton Keynes and I am delighted that these well used parks have been recognised in these national awards."

The Milton Keynes sites will be among the 1,288 parks and green spaces nationally that will fly either the Green Flag or Community Award.

Phil Barton, Green Flag Plus Partnership chairman, said: "I would like to congratulate this year's winners, who have worked hard throughout the year to keep their parks and green spaces at a high standard and ensure they are pleasant and enjoyable spaces for the whole community.

"As the value of green space and the role it plays in our communities strengthens, we must ensure these high standards remain."

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Mystery still surrounding tax office leak evacuation

BY DAN PALMER & ADAM GRINSELL
editor@mk-news.co.uk

Police cordon off an area around Bowback House

AN INVESTIGATION held after a tax office was evacuated has ended but no explanation has been given to what happened.

All three emergency services were called to Bowback House, in Silbury Boulevard, last Wednesday, after what is believed to be an ammonia leak in the air conditioning system.

An investigation was launched by the Health and Safety Executive but when asked by MK NEWS this week a spokeman said the findings won't be disclosed.

She said: "The investigation has been closed and the results will not be released."

The drama began to unfold in the early afternoon when Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC), Department for Work and Pensions and Jobcentre Plus staff began to notice a bad smell, with 27 people later complaining of breathing difficulties, nausea and headaches.

After the evacuation, a cordon was placed around the building and 127 people were assessed by paramedics at the scene.

Nobody was taken to hospital and staff returned to work on Friday after being given a day off on Thursday.

People in nearby buildings were 'quarantined' inside their offices and roads in the area were closed as a public safety precaution.

An HMRC statement said: "HMRC alerted the building's landlords, Mapeley, at the earliest opportunity and the matter was referred to the Health and Safety Executive."

A small-scale evacuation also took place at Lord Grey School, in Bletchley, in the morning of the same day after a chemical leak.

Firefighters were called to the school's science block at 9.48am after the elemental chemical bromine was found to be leaking in a storage room.

A cautionary evacuation took place and an industrial fan was used to clear any fumes.

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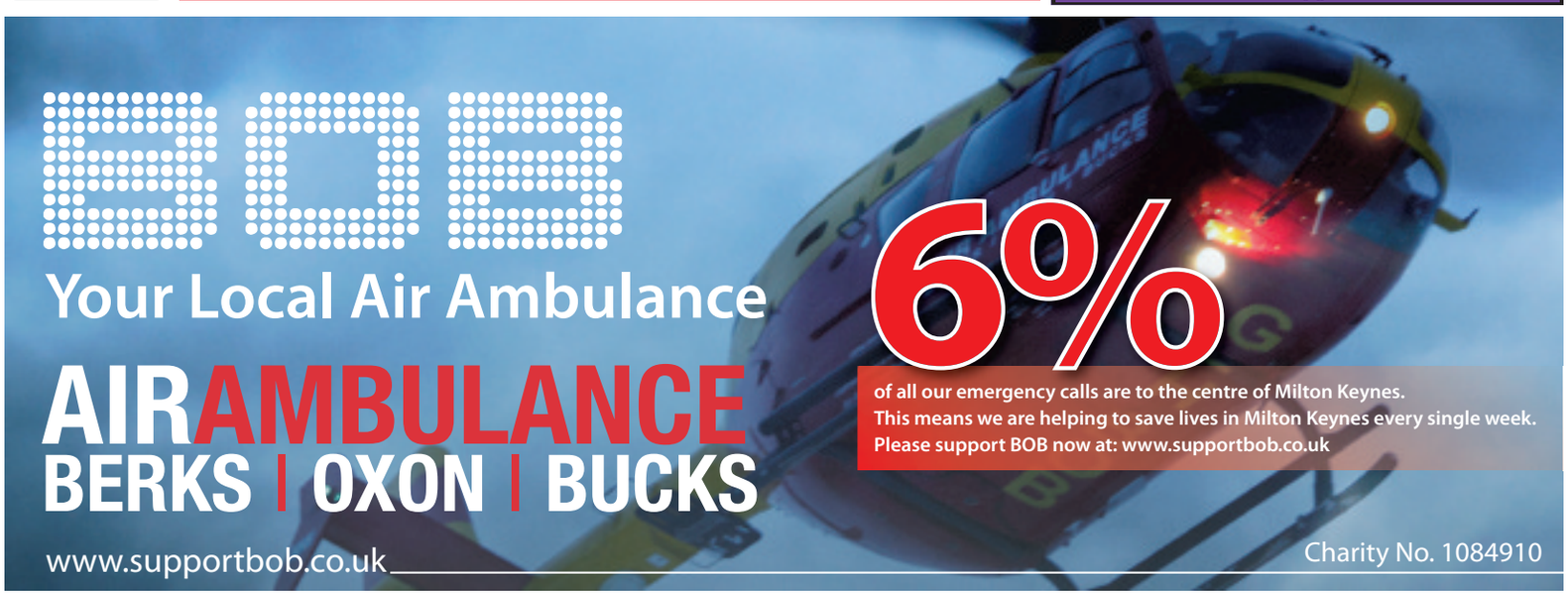

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MPs' report calls for new taxi laws

BY ADAM GRINSELL
adam.grinsell@mk-news.co.uk

A NEW law governing 'cross-border' taxis and private hire vehicles is being called for by MPs – a move welcomed by some drivers in the city.

The Parliamentary Transport Select Committee, on which Milton Keynes South MP Iain Stewart sits, published a report last week stating the problem of cross-border hire – where taxis and private hire vehicles operate outside the district in which they are licensed – can only be solved with a new law.

The investigation, previously reported by MK NEWS, has been welcomed by private hire driver Martin Kennedy who said drivers licensed in Milton Keynes are having to pay for those who come from other areas.

He said: "I currently pay for a licence for policing cabs in Milton Keynes, but we have so much cross-border trading that the policing is underfunded as there are too many cars. They do all their business in Milton Keynes but they are not licensed here, which means I have to pay to license them."

Concerned cabbie: Martin Kennedy

The committee is calling for a law which would enable licensing authorities to issue fixed penalty notices to out-of-town drivers found to have worked within a district where they do not hold a licence. Operators sending vehicles to work in areas for which they hold no licence could also be prosecuted.

Mr Stewart said: " Many taxi and private hire operators contacted me on numerous occasions about the issues affecting their trade. In particular, they complained about the problem of cross-border hire from neighbouring rural areas.

"We shall be pressing the Government to implement these recommendations as soon as is practicable."

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New Park venue a boost for town

BY DAN PALMER
dan.palmer@mk-news.co.uk

A COMMUNITY looks set to benefit after a football club was told it could move into a new home.

Following successful negotiations with the Parks Trust, the premises at Field Lane, Greenleys, will be leased to Wolverton Town Sports and Social Club, which will make the ground the new home of Wolverton Town FC.

The venue will be called The New Park and will soon feature a redeveloped clubhouse, which will offer social facilities for the local area.

Wolverton and Greenleys Town Council has backed the plans by providing funding and Milton Keynes North MP Mark Lancaster has also offered his support.

Steve Greenwood, chairman of the sports and social club, said: "This venture has been a long time in planning and without the support of a dedicated team of volunteers, who have given their time and expertise free of charge, we wouldn't be here today having secured the future of Wolverton Town FC and on the brink of bringing a much needed social facility to the area."

Mr Lancaster added the project would provide a 'great boost' for the Wolverton area.

He said: "I believe this facility will be central to the regeneration of the town, while gaining it recognition for its big society credentials.

"The project will bring together the community while providing the facilities for residents, young and old to remain fit and healthy."

For further details of how to become a social or playing member of the club, email membership@wolvesfc.org

New home: Wolverton Town FC committee members and volunteers

Lose pounds to help gain pounds

POINTS make pounds at Shenley Leisure Centre – and help you lose them.

Similar to the points reward schemes found in many supermarkets, from August 15 Shenley Leisure Centre will give its customers the chance to save points for every pound they spend, to redeem against any of its many facilities and activities.

Chief executive Mark Taylor said: "Our customers can redeem the points against any activity, so we may see our regular fitness room users redeeming their points against new activities they've never tried before."

Mark Taylor, *left*, and Will Allen from Shenley Leisure Centre with the new loyalty cards

British Waterways HQ to move to city

BY ADAM GRINSELL
adam.grinsell@mk-news.co.uk

THE city's economy is set to receive a boost after British Waterways announced it will be moving its headquarters to Milton Keynes.

The public corporation, which cares for the 2,200-mile network of canals and rivers in England, Scotland and Wales, already has a regional office on Elder Gate in Central Milton Keynes, but will now move its national headquarters to the city.

The news comes as Bedford and MK Waterway Trust is setting plans in motion for a 26 kilometre-long link between the Grand Union Canal and the River Great Ouse, which would fall under the management and maintenance of British Waterways.

The transfer, from its current Watford base, will save the organisation around £1million per year and is expected to take place next summer, although a location in the city has not yet been identified.

Jonathan Ludford, a spokesman for the company, said the decision was made for a number of factors.

He said: "Firstly Milton Keynes is on the canal network and also we are a nationwide company, so it is a good location.

"The other reason is the space in Milton Keynes is cheaper than central London or Watford."

The move will bring 80 jobs to the city, with the number of jobs created for local people dependant upon the amount of staff that decide to transfer from Watford.

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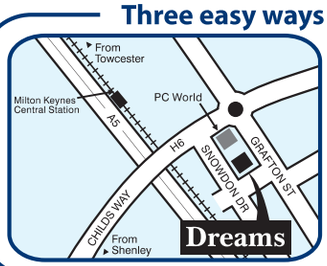

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Sports plan needs total commitment

BY DAN PALMER
dan.palmer@mk-news.co.uk

IF MILTON Keynes is to promote itself as an International Sporting City there should be no half measures.

That's the message from the city's key sporting figures who were asked to give their views on the ambitious plans.

A consultation seminar was held last month to discuss the idea and the results of a survey have now been released.

The view is clear - the idea is a good one but it should be done in the right way with the highest quality facilities and events.

There is also a desire to prioritise sporting opportunities which attract the widest market and the greatest financial investment, in order to give the city the best possible economic boost.

Opportunities for community sport, health and well-being, cultural diversity and sports science have also been highlighted within the feedback.

Chris Law, from consultants Nortoft, said: "A strong feeling emerged from the event that the International Sporting City was a good thing. Recommendations will now be progressed, with some additional focus on the place of community sport."

The sporting city idea is being pushed forward by Milton Keynes Council with backing from the worlds of business and politics.

It is hoped that top class athletes will be attracted to the city's facilities and international and national events will be held, in order to help put the city on the map.

Feedback from the meeting also included ideas for new sporting venues which could be built.

There was support for new swimming pools, a large sports hall, synthetic pitches, cycling facilities and an international standard training pitch.

Sea cadets parade before senior officer

Major Henderson inspects the guard

IT WAS a case of all ship shape and Bristol fashion at TS Whaddon when Milton Keynes Sea Cadets Corps had their bi-annual Royal Navy Parade.

Deputy area officer Major Henderson RNR was on board at the cadets' headquarters in Kiln Farm to inspect the parade before watching demonstrations by the cadets.

The parade was also attended by Milton Keynes Mayor, Alan Richards, MP Iain Stewart and family and friends of the cadets.

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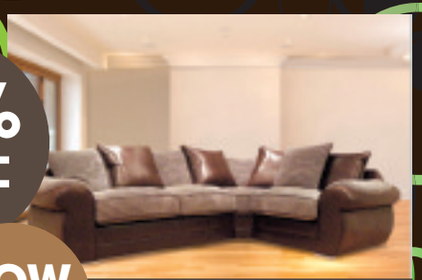

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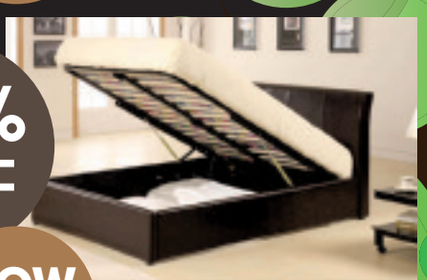

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Defence changes backed by TA MP

BY ADAM GRINSELL
adam.grinsell@mk-news.co.uk

CHANGES to the country's defence system have been welcomed by a city MP who is also a serving Territorial Army (TA) Officer.

MP for Milton Keynes North, Mark Lancaster, *pictured*, is a trained bomb disposal officer with the TA and has served in Bosnia, Kosovo and Afghanistan.

Speaking as part of a debate on defence transformations on Monday last week, he praised the Government's plans and now hopes a recent announcement that reservists' funding will be boosted will secure the future of the city's two TA units - E Company 7 Rifles in Blakelands and the Royal Signals in Bletchley.

The Government's proposals will see the rebalancing of the army, with 30 per cent of service men and women coming from the reserves – currently only ten per cent are from the TA. This would put the UK in line with other countries such as America and Canada and will allow specialist reservist soldiers to go to the frontline.

During the debate, he said: "I am confident that the reserve forces will step up and meet the challenge."

He also asked Secretary of State for defence, Liam Fox, for assurances the practice of late mobilisation, which prevents some members of the TA receiving full deployment training with their attached unit, will cease.

Mr Lancaster said: "This is great news and I welcome the changes after ten years of underfunding.

"Reservists have the same duties as the regular army and I am delighted this Government is committed to boosting their funding."

■ Following Mr Lancaster's adjournment debate on the use of the drug khat in Parliament last Tuesday, government whip Jeremy Wright said the Government shared his concerns.

Mr Lancaster will now write to the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs to invite them to MK as part of their investigation into the classification and regulation of khat.

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OU fee among the lowest in country

BY ADAM GRINSELL
adam.grinsell@mk-news.co.uk

STUDENTS studying through the Open University (OU) will pay some of the lowest student fees in the country.

New students in England will be charged £5,000 for the equivalent of a full-time place from September 1, 2012, it was announced last Wednesday.

The amount students pay each year will be determined by the number of credits they are studying – a full-time course is 120 credits, so a typical part-time OU student, studying 60 credits in a year, will be charged £2,500 per year.

These figures compare to £9,000 per year, which will be charged by the majority of other universities across the country.

Martin Bean, vice-chancellor of the OU, which has its headquarters in Milton Keynes, said: "As the higher education landscape continues to evolve rapidly, the OU is renewing its commitment to delivering high-quality, flexible and great value for money education for all."

Mr Bean added that 747,965 students in England chose to study part-time in 2009/10 and he feels these numbers will increase as more students choose to work while they study.

Martin Bean, vice-chancellor of the Open University, outside the new Jennie Lee Building

The news comes as 250 of the OU's first ever students visited to celebrate the opening of the new Jennie Lee Building.

The building, which houses a purpose-built, hi-tech computing department, is named after Jennie Lee who, as Arts Minister in Harold Wilson's 1964 Labour Government, played a key role in the formation of the Open University.

The building was officially opened last Tuesday at an event which was also attended by members of the Lee family, friends of the university and dignitaries.

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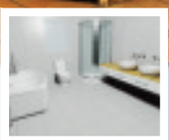

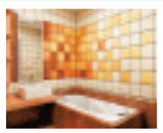

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Eye, eye: Celebrating cultures from around the world

THOUSANDS of people turned out for a celebration of world culture on Sunday.

The Parks Trust's World Picnic held in Campbell Park, Milton Keynes, attracted visitors from around the city as they took in the excitement of global arts in the sunshine.

Three performance areas hosted about 20 acts with the centre piece a 10-metre pink pig with a animatronic head.

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Thousands enjoy the World Picnic

Left: Cr owds enjoy the sun at the World Picnic
Right: A youngster sees the action from new heights
Below right: Zorbing
Below: Brewing Up at the World Picnic

festival included DJs on stilts, a London taxi filled with street dancers and local carnival arts performers Festive Road.

Julie Dawes, events co-ordinator at The Parks Trust, said: "We were so pleased to welcome almost 5,000 people to Campbell Park for the World Picnic. People told us that they'd had a great time and really enjoyed the different acts.

"We'd like to say a big thank you to everyone involved in organising and helping to make this event such a success.

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Summer courses will help keep kids active

Kick about: Stuart Hardwick with children taking part in a soccer camp this week

BY DAN PALMER
dan.palmer@mk-news.co.uk

A DAD is hoping to get youngsters off the sofa and into sport this summer.

Twenty-nine-year-old PE teacher Stuart Hardwick, from Wavendon Gate in Milton Keynes, has decided to launch week-long camps to help tackle the problem of children not getting enough exercise.

The idea has already proved a hit with parents who were looking for a way to get their kids active during the school holidays.

Stuart, father to twins Lucas and Dylan, aged two, said: "I've run occasional courses before and they were very popular. It was great to see local children getting active and enjoying exercise. That inspired me to step things up and offer more courses this summer and, who knows, if it really takes off we may even run them all year round.

"I'm very excited about this venture. It's always been my passion to show children and young people the many benefits of exercise in a fun, rewarding way."

Widespread coverage about childhood obesity helped to provide the inspiration for the camps, which cover a range of sports.

Stuart added: "The University of Worcester's Institute of Sport and Exercise reports that we're becoming like the US, with a greater risk of type two diabetes in the young. They argue parents should set a good example too and that's right, but sometimes it's hard when you're working all week."

Mother-of-three Bernadette Ahmed, also from Wavendon Gate, is one person who has been impressed with the venture.

She said: "My sons have really benefitted from Stuart's early intervention."

For further information on the courses, which cost £10 a day, call Stuart on 07854 046427.

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Summer Holidays fun!

Well it's finally here, the school summer holiday! Once the excitement of no school for 6 weeks has subsided, how are you going to keep your little ones and not so little ones occupied over the next few weeks?

Here in Milton Keynes we are extremely lucky and spoilt for choice with the number of venues and activities on offer to help keep your brood under control and entertained, so read on and hopefully everyone in the family will have a great time this summer.

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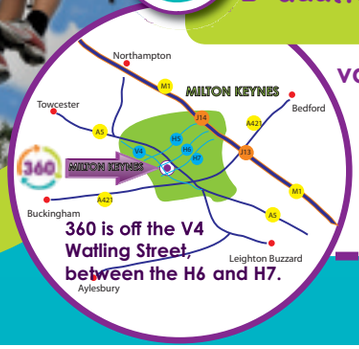

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They say no leisure and retail destination is an island. Well, this summer Xscape Island throws that theory out to sea!

A chance to Xscape this summer

Whether you're looking for somewhere to stock up your summer wardrobe with the latest threads, or just somewhere to chill out, get yourself to Xscape.

Here's what's on offer over the summer:

Buy Before You Fly (BBYF))

The holiday is booked, you're stocked up on factor 30, but your suitcase is looking pretty bare… you need to check out the ultimate urban lifestyle retailers at Xscape and buy before you fly.

They'll be showcasing some of the best holiday outfits and accessories in the BBYF holiday case, and you'll have to chance to win stacks of gorgeous

Free Family Entertainment

Right in the heart of Xscape Island is the castaway beach itself! Complete with cocktail bar and jetty, you'll feel transported to somewhere exotic! Every day from Saturday until August 14, there will be free family activities with the team of castaways.

SNO!zone

Raft Build Challenge gives wannabe castaways the chance to build a raft using skis, snowboards and rope, and then race it down the real snow slopes at SNO!zone. Not only will there be a prize for the best team of the summer, but it's free to take part!
If that wasn't enough, there are more prizes to be won at the Xscape message in a bottle game. Dangle your fishing rod over the edge of the shipwreck and see what you can catch! And for those who can't get enough of the angling antics, there's an online version of the game to play at www.xscape.co.uk.

Get Digitally Digging

No castaway island is complete without a treasure hunt, but because you can't dig up the floors in Xscape, the treasure hunt is all about digital digging! Come armed with your smartphone and find the QR barcodes - scan them with your phone to discover clues, leading you to win the booty! For all the details, check out the website.

Eat, Shop and Play at the Ultimate Getaway
Xscape MK is home to Europe's premier real indoor snow slopes, as well as a 16-screen luxury cinema, the very best in restaurants, bars and nightclubs, plus the latest in urban lifestyle retail. There's something for everyone – Xscape has summer covered.

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XSCAPE

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Xscape is your ultimate island getaway this Summer! Home to the latest in urban lifestyle retail, top leisure activities including Europe's premier real indoor snow slopes and the best places to eat and drink in town, there really is something for everyone!

Plus, for three weeks this Summer there will be FREE family entertainment on our very own Castaway Island beach!
Visit our website for details.

Schools out!

When Soccer for Tots was launched back in 2005, Founder and Head Coach Glen Tritton had no idea it would be such a huge success. Glen noticed that young children were desperate to start playing football but that the drills designed for school aged kids just didn't fit the development needs of preschool children.

So, along with another FA coach and an NNEB child educator in the USA, Soccer for Tots was born,offering football classes with curriculum designed specifically for children aged 2 ½ to 5 years.

Games and class formats are designed to maximise time on the ball, build balance, co-ordination and help children start taking instruction in a structured environment. Most importantly it's fun!

"The class sizes are small so that each child gets one to one attention to help them build their confidence. Most kids stay with us for years - it's great to see how they develop. We also now run Soccer for Sixes for children 5 – 7 years because so many were finishing at 5, going to the league clubs and coming back because they just didn't enjoy it. So we started an older programme too."

Today, with classes running in Milton Keynes, Leighton Buzzard and Northampton, Soccer for Tots is also being invited to expand into designing and running football programmes in primary schools and nurseries. For more information on joining classes or starting a programme in your nursery, call 01525 237750 or email UK@SoccerForTots.com

Lakeside adventure in the treetops

Aerial Extreme at Willen Lake is a place where your sense of adventure is set free. The largest course of its kind in the south of England, you can tackle high ropes and suspended gravity climbing walls, perform midair jumps and zoom down zip lines, and then there's the mighty Goliath! The view of the lake and forest canopy from atop this 100-foot simulated freefall monster is simply breathtaking, but you'll need a lungful of air to laugh and shout as you step off the edge and plunge towards the ground!

No climbing experience is required to enjoy Aerial Extreme's high ropes courses, just a passion for fun and exhilaration. A friendly support team are always present to monitor and help you get the most out of your visit, and they might even give you a high five when you've overcome a few of Willen Lake's many challenging obstacles. Plus the state-of-the-art safety system means that you're always in safe hands, so what better opportunity to release your inner daredevil?

For budding thrill-seekers, the Junior Course offers adventure to children 1.1 metres and above, meaning the entire family can share the Aerial Extreme experience in beautiful surroundings and make memories they'll share forever.

Driving to Mongolia!

BY ADAM GRINSELL
adam.grinsell@mk-news.co.uk

TWO adventurous students have set off on a gruelling 10,000 mile fundraising drive to Mongolia.

Alex Beverly and James Ray, both 21 and from Newport Pagnell, are taking part in the Mongol Rally, which will see them travel through 17 countries in their tiny Suzuki Carry van, all in the name of charity.

They will have to rely on the eight-year-old mini van to complete the epic rally through countries including Iran, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan.

The pair approached Halfords Autocentres in Bletchley to help prepare the van for the six-week journey, which gave the Suzuki a full service, fitted various new parts, and provided basic mechanical training to help keep them moving.

James, who is raising money for the British Heart Foundation after his father suffered a heart attack, said: "The idea is that you take a completely unsuitable car and drive it 10,000 miles across all kinds of terrain. Our van is better suited to urban deliveries than barren deserts.

"There are going to be lots of challenges to overcome such as border crossings, temperatures of up to 40 degrees, food, water and each other's company."

The pair are also raising money for the Christina Nobel Children's Foundation and will be donating their Suzuki to a local charity once they get to Ulan Bator, their end destination.

Anyone who would like to give a donation can visit www.justgiving.com/james-ray, or www.justgiving.com/alex-beverly.

Alex Beverly and James Ray get ready for the Mongol Rally with help from Halfords centre manager Paul Webb, *right.* Picture courtesy of Professional Images

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MK BUSINESS

Work-seeking women can get beauty boost at Central MK salon

BY ADAM GRINSELL
adam.grinsell@mk-news.co.uk

UNEMPLOYED women in the city can now get a new look as part of a scheme to help them in their hunt for work.

Headonist hair and beauty salon, in The Hub, Central Milton Keynes, has teamed up with the charity MK Women and Work Group to offer unemployed women and those in low-paid and low-skilled jobs the opportunity to update their look and improve their employment prospects.

Women and Work clients can be models for Headonist apprentices and, under supervision, can have their style transformed with a free, up-to-date cut and new hair colour.

Vanessa Couzens, co-owner of Headonist, said: "How you look plays such an important role in how you feel about yourself.

"We see it every day with our clients - a new hairstyle can take years of a person's age and if you feel good, you are more confident and outgoing.

"We're delighted to be working with Women and Work and it's a great opportunity for our apprentices to hone their skills on a wide range of clients."

Janice Jones, office manager at Women and Work, said looking for a new role can be very daunting.

She added: "So much depends on your confidence. Our motto is 'enabling women to transform their lives', and new skills provided by us and a new look from Headonist can really help our deserving clients to achieve their full potential."

Vanessa Couzens of Headonist, *left*, and Janice Jones, from Women and Work, hope their new scheme will help women get back into employment

MKNEWS BRIEFS

Design a dream dessert

CUSTOMERS at the Fountain Harvester in Loughton can make their mark on the next menu by designing the next Super Sundae icecream.

A new Super Sundaes selection was launched on Monday last week, and to celebrate the new desserts people can submit their suggestions for their dream Super Sundae.

Find out more at www.harvester.co.uk/super-sundaes.

A smashing bit of crumpet

STAFF from The Barn Beefeater Grill in Central Milton Keynes helped to recreate images of Pippa Middleton using crumpets last week.

The artworks, designed and created by food artist Laura Hadland on behalf of Beefeater Grill, saw 15,000 crumpets weighing more than a tonne used to recreate the socialite's likeness.

More than 100 jars of spreads, including butter, jam and Marmite, were used to create shading on the 13 by 20 meter giant mosaics, which took more than 24 hours to complete.

University's web contract

INTERDIRECT, based in Salford, has announced a new website contract with Cranfield University.

The contract will see the university's website undergo a redevelopment that will provide a new design for the UK's only wholly post-graduate university.

It will encompass the current visual identity of the university and provide fresh, innovative functionality that aims to promote ease of navigation.

Marshall takes over dealer

MARSHALL Milton Keynes opened its doors for business this month after ownership of the former Pilling Motor Group dealership in Chippenham Drive, Kingston, was transferred to the group, the second largest privately owned motor retail company.

The dealership will retain the majority of the staff.

Finance firm in top 100

CITY-BASED Scottsdale Consulting, a financial advice company based in Linford Wood, is celebrating being listed in the 100 Leading Advisory Distributors for the first time.

School's triumph in business competition

FIVE sixth-formers from Ousedale School fought off competition from nine other teams to win the grand final of business competition.

The Arts Business Challenge, hosted by the Centre for Customised Executive Development at Cranfield School of Management, is designed to provide an opportunity for aspiring young business leaders from schools across Milton Keynes to experience working with a world-class management school.

The event ran 'virtually' for two weeks, with teams competing in an online business simulation, before the four most profitable teams and a wild card team met face-to-face at Cranfield for the grand final.

The trophy was presented to the winning team by Milton Keynes mayor, councillor Alan Richards, and they will now be joined by runners-up Denbigh School in the Inter-County Challenge.

The challenge takes place in the autumn when the teams will compete against winners of similar challenges from Bedfordshire schools.

Fran Bottoms, a teacher at Ousedale, said: "The opportunity to participate in a professional business simulation is unique and the students have learned a great deal from it.

"They were runners-up in the first round but by the final they had really grasped the important essentials and won outright. As a bonus one of the students won the award for best designed logo.

"I am extremely proud of the group and the way they have worked together as a team."

MK LIFE

YOUR GUIDE TO LEISURE IN YOUR CITY

Opera della Luna performs Don Giovanni – see inside

Picture Jessica Beveridge

INSIDE

Artists will light up the stage at park's super summer festival

Page 38

PLUS

Your chance to watch Shakespeare's Twelfth Night page 34
Win tickets to see the world premiere of Top Hat page 35
Get the showbiz gossip from Stuart and Natalie page 38
Have a laugh with the Red Card Comedy Club page 39

Leisure or events news? e-mail **editor@mk-news.co.uk** | phone **01908 689595**

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SIMON DARNELL

PROPELLER SEEDS

Imogen Heap

I like stupid songs, I'm not ashamed to say it.

I have The Chicken Song somewhere on seven inch, so there.

However, a stupid song (or at least one that sounds stupid) is far easier to create than a clever song.

See, the thing about clever songs is that there's a very fine line between creating something truly original and inspired and something that sounds like it was nothing more a vehicle for the artist(s) concerned to show everyone just how much smarter than the listener they think they are.

More often than not, the song concerned could have its running time slashed by at least half and it would still make perfect sense, even without the endless guitar solo.

Propeller Seeds doesn't have any guitar solos; it also runs for under four minutes.

More importantly, it's very, very cleverly done, and I mean that as in 'genuinely clever' rather than 'showing off.'

The tune sort of floats along, as do the vocals, but the song is driven by the lyrics, literally.

The tune is filled with background noises, from people chatting to cutlery jingling to creaking doors, and they come and go as the tale unfolds (which is basically about two people falling in love).

At the start of the second verse, a band can be heard playing in the distance, only to fade away as Ms Heap sings 'the party's on mute', and towards the end a beat comes in and goes away just as quickly as she sings the word 'disco'.

It all sounds a bit complex, but it's quiet, gentle and trippy. It'll take a few listens to get used to, but it's well worth the effort.

This is an amazing song, both for the effort that went into it and for what it ended up as.

THE ADVENTURES OF RAIN DANCE MAGGIE

Red Hot Chili Peppers

THE title is definitely better than the song, but look at the title. It's magnificent. Total nonsense, obviously, but magnificent. The song itself, on the other hand, is not magnificent.

It's got a 'funky vibe' (man), but it's curiously unengaging. Even when the chorus kicks in, the song resolutely refuses to go above third gear. It starts, plays and finishes. That's all it does.

As comeback singles go, this is a bit of a non-event, truth be told.

CALCUTTA BRASSERIE

DINING IN THE DARK

Tuesday, from 7pm

HAVE you ever wondered whether your food would taste different in the dark?

Calcutta Brasserie in Stony Stratford is launching its next dining experience, Dining in the Dark, designed to heighten your sensory culinary experience.

The stunning Grade II-listed building will be submerged into complete darkness with only a path of tea lights to guide guests to their table.

Tranquil music and alternating aromas will add to the unique evening experience and, on arrival, each guest will get a complimentary glass of Champagne before sampling the set menu.

The chefs have spent more than a month carefully constructing each of the three courses to ensure each flavour stimulates, tests and tantalises the taste buds.

All tables will have an optional blind fold to take your Dining in the Dark experience to a whole new level.

To reserve a table call 01908 566577.

The set menu costs £16.95 per person and includes a glass of Champagne.

For more information, visit www.calcuttabrasserie.co.uk.

CAMPBELL PARK

TWELFTH NIGHT

Friday, August 5, 7.30pm.

JOIN The Parks Trust for a hilarious evening of open-air theatre with the sublime Shakespearian comedy, Twelfth Night.

The show combines a shipwreck, mistaken identity, romance, unrequited love and ribald revelry.

Performed by Illyria theatre company at Campbell Park Pavilion you can take along a picnic, seat and blanket.

Advance tickets are £9 for adults, £6 for children, or £25 for a family of four.

They are available from www.theparkstrust.com, or 01908 233600.

COURTEENHALL, NORTHANTS

DON GIOVANNI

Friday and Sunday

THE acclaimed Opera della Luna brings its sizzling new production of Mozart's opera Don Giovanni to the beautiful setting of Courteenhall, Northants, for two nights only.

Fresh from a sell-out run at Bath's prestigious Iford Festival, this popular company turns its hand to Mozart's classic tale of love and revenge for Courteenhall's first ever opera performance.

With a zesty new translation by Jeff Clarke and orchestrations by Iain Farrington, Opera della Luna bring their customary twist to this stylish and sparkling summer staging.

The production is a showcase of young operatic talent. The lead role is played by Australian baritone Duncan Rock, a graduate of the National Opera Studio and a veteran of performances at Glyndebourne, Holland Park and Longborough.

Internationally acclaimed soprano Victoria Joyce takes the role of Donna Anna with Julie Unwin as Donna Elvira.

The company also includes James Birchall, Tyler Clarke, Rhian Lois, Ross McInroy, Harry Howle and Gareth Healey and the performances are accompanied by Stratford-upon-Avon's Orchestra of the Swan.

In fine voice: Victoria Joyce as Donna Anna in Don Giovanni
Picture Jessica Beveridge

The stunning setting of Courteenhall, a traditional rural estate, has been home to the Wake Family for many generations and is seldom open to the public, so this is a rare opportunity to visit this beautiful country setting, situated between Roade and Junction 15 of the M1 .

Opera goers are invited to picnic in the grounds before the performance and in the interval. The performance and seating areas are fully covered so the opera can take place whatever the weather.

Tickets are £70 each, including a Champagne reception before the performance. Tickets may be ordered from Sally Ross on 01869 325131, or email lunatics@operadellaluna.org.

For Friday's performance the dress code is black tie and for Sunday's performance informal.

Both performances are in support of The British Red Cross.

Leisure or events news? e-mail **editor@mk-news.co.uk**

MILTON KEYNES THEATRE **COMPETITION**

MK NEWS has teamed up with Milton Keynes Theatre to give away a pair of tickets to the city's very own world premiere.

Top Hat, the 1935 film starring dancing royalty Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, has been adapted for the stage and Milton Keynes audiences will get the very first look.

And you and a guest could be there at the very first performance of the production on August 16.

The film is widely regarded as being Fred and Ginger's greatest Hollywood dance musical and the new version features Tom Chambers and Summer Strallen, *pictured*, in the lead roles.

Chambers, known for his performances in Holby City, shot to fame by winning Strictly Come Dancing and Strallen, who has starred in Love Never Dies, The Boy Friend and Hollyoaks, is a triple Olivier Award nominee.

Tom plays Jerry Travers, a famous American tap dancer who arrives in London to appear in his first West End Show. While there he meets Dale Tremont (Strallen), the girl of his dreams.

To win her heart, he sets off

across Europe to wow her with his wonderful song and dance routines.

Irving Berlin's celebrated score includes classics such as Cheek to Cheek, Let's Face the Music and Dance, Top Hat, and White Tie and Tails.

For your chance to be there on opening night, answer the following question:

Which of these TV shows did Tom Chambers win?

a) Strictly Come Dancing
b) The X-Factor
c) Britain's Got Talent

Send your entries, along with your name, address and contact details, to competitions@mk-news.co.uk or MK NEWS, 1 Diamond Court, Fox Milne, MK15 0DU. Closing date for entries is Wednesday, August 3.

The winner will be selected and notified after the closing date. The editor's decision is final.

MK **GALLERY**

EMMA Wilde is one of eight talented artists featured in MK Gallery's current exhibition, New Art MK, which continues until September 18.

She produces meticulously observed drawings in charcoal and pencil, often on cheap everyday materials such as notebooks or newsprint.

Her drawing content and style is influenced by her love of the natural environment and film, especially the methods of film photography. She often works from film stills and enjoys taking her own 'cinematic' photographs of the city to use as a source material for her compositions.

Emma's current drawings are a progression from a body of work that focused on suburban Bedford, where she explored the way wildlife co-existed on the edges of the civilised, built environment.

At MK Gallery she shows seven carefully staged drawings and a watercolour of selected Milton Keynes locations, together with a vitrine presenting additional works and related research material.

Crownhill by Emma Wilde

With simple factual titles, such as The Corner of Western Road, Crownhill, The County Court, Redbridge and Midland Road, Cut Through, they can be considered simply as detailed urban landscape studies, but that would be to overlook the subtle clues to alternative readings.

Drawing on childhood memories of driving around MK, Emma delights in depicting a new city that has matured and in investigating scenes where the built and the natural environments intersect, creating points of tension.

Mature trees are encircled by asphalt on a traffic island, squashed between buildings, or half obscure street furniture which now appears to be 'growing' out of foliage.

Whilst people are absent, the compositions suggest a certain imminence. Are they behind that window, wall or corner?

Her quiet scenes invite the imagination to roam. Is that just a street lamp emerging from a clump of trees or could it be a snapshot of the start of an alien-like invasion?

Find out more about Emma at www.mkgallery.org, including her artistic influences and favourite YouTube clip.

Don't miss her Friday Night film screening choice at the gallery on September 16 - Nicholas Roeg's Walkabout. Two limited edition prints by Emma are available for sale in the Gallery Shop, at £75 each or £100 for the pair to Friday Night Film ticket holders.

WOBURN **ABBEY**

SNOW WHITE

Sunday, 3pm

KATY Allen will be appearing in the Chapterhouse Theatre Company open air summer adaptation of Snow White.

She is best known for playing trouble causing rival Ethel Hallow in the wonderful children's television series, The Worst Witch.

After studying at The American Academy of Dramatic Art in Los Angeles, Katy joins Chapterhouse to take the lead role of Louisa, a young 1940s evacuee, who along with her close friends, creates a brand new performance of Snow White.

This show is bound to delight children and adults alike and is performed in one of England's most picturesque house and gardens.

Tickets cost £12.95 for adults (£7.50 for students and children) and £36 for two adults and two children. To buy, or for more information, contact 01525 290333.

BLETCHLEY **PARK**

THE National Museum of Computing at Bletchley Park is one of just 12 national venues hosting this year's Young Rewired State from Monday until Friday.

The week long 'hack event' offers under 18s and aspiring web developers a free-of-charge opportunity to build their own web apps, visualisations and projects using open government data and with mentoring from developers.

At the end of the week, all the projects will be presented to press, government and industry at a prestigious event in London, where judges will award prizes.

"This is a real opportunity for teenagers to get something rather special on their CV or portfolio," said Chris Monk, learning co-ordinator at the museum.

"Whether you are already a programmer or newly creating your own web pages, give the event a try.

Bring your laptop and join others programming close to Colossus, the world's first digital computer, and other amazing icons of the digital age.

"It's the coolest place imaginable to create your own software."

Find out more and register at www.youngrewiredstate.org. Find out more about The National Museum of Computing at www.tnmoc.org.

Leisure or events news? e-mail **editor@mk-news.co.uk**

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7	MEXICANA Chicken Tikka, Jalepenos, Peppers, & Pineapple	9.50	12.50	15.50
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11	TASTY FULL HOUSE Beef, Pepperoni, Peppers, Sweetcorn, Onion & Turkey	10.50	13.50	16.50
12	FREE CHOICE Choose 4 Toppings - Choose a Base from Tomato, BBQ, Garlic Mayo & Chilli	10.50	13.50	16.50
13	DONER PIZZA Doner Meat, Onions & Jalepenos	9.50	12.50	16.00
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15	CHICKEN BBQ PIZZA BBQ base, Onion, Turkey Meat & BBQ Chicken	9.50	12.50	16.00
16	ORIENTAL EXPRESS Sweetcorn, Green Pepper, Chinese Chicken & Mushroom	9.50	12.50	16.00
17	STUFFED CRUST	90p	1.20	1.90
18	CHEESE & PEPPERONI STUFFED CRUST	1.00	1.30	2.00

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6 pcs chicken & 2 fries	£7.99

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Mixed Grill Crispy bacon, sausage, mushrooms and tomatoes			
Tandoori Pizza Tandoori chicken, onions, mushrooms and jalapeno peppers			
Chilli Pizza Beef, onions, green peppers and fresh green chillies			
Hawaiian Ham and pineapple	£7.49	£10.99	£12.99
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sides

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MK TAKEAWAYS

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO THE BEST TAKEAWAYS IN MILTON KEYNES

On Tuesday 2nd August we are launching a new dining experience

Dining in the Dark

Dining in the Dark, a new culinary experience at Calcutta Brasserie. Enhance your tastebuds and sample traditional Indian cuisine in a new way at this unique evening.

To reserve a table for the Dining in the Dark experience contact

Calcutta Brasserie on 01908 566577

The set menu costs £16.95 per person
Champagne Reception
3 Course Menu

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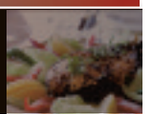
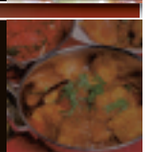


Set Meal B two people £22.95
4 poppadoms and pickles, 1 samosa,
1 tandoori chicken, 1 lamb chilli bhuna,
1 chicken korma, 1 naan,
1 peshwari naan, 1 boiled rice,
1 mushroom rice and onion salad



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IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

CAMPBELL PARK

Problem Solved and, *below*, Cherry Lee Mewis will be perfoming at The Summer Fayre Festival

THE SUMMER FAYRE FESTIVAL

Friday to Sunday

THE city's biggest music festival of the year will take place this weekend.

Over three fantastic days you can listen to some of the very best live music from the city and further afield on two different stages.

Now in its third year, the Summer Fayre Festival has grown and with more than 50 acts this year it's got to be one of the best value events in the country - as it's all free.

The festival opens on Friday at 6pm with a BBC 3 counties radio showcase being broadcast from the Main Stage, with Rebecca de Winter, Andre D,Mello, Seven Caves and Scrapbook Hereos being joined by acoustic acts Dan O'shea and Pippa.

On Saturday both the Main and Daisy Field stages will be up and running from noon.

Teenage metal band Oceans and Empires open the show on the Main Stage, while Curtis Ersser kicks things off on the Daisy Field stage.

With a mixture of punk, heavy, indie, garage rock and folk, you can hear The Silver Bazilians, Problem Solved, Rust Bucket, Our Man in the Bronze Age and Pearl Handled Revolver on the Main Stage.

On the Daisy Field stage, things are a little less frantic with a feast of comedy, unpugged and accoustic including Sian Magill, Steve Scribberas & Marijo Band and Amy Leeder all compered by Dryspots Comedy duo Mark Cram and Chris Purchase.

Sunday again starts at noon, but brings a whole new feel to the festival with blues, R&B, ska, electro rock, metal and indie on the Main Stage from bands like Casino Kid, Trash Monkey, Oldschool Studio Jam Band and Big Head, before Cherry Lee Mewis closes the festival.

On the Daisy Field stage from noon the ledgendary club dance promoters Ultra Vegas take over, bringing the very best in DJs including Jason Jay, Rhythm2, Strictlymusic and Mr Stixx.

With all this going on there is a chance for families and music fans alike to enjoy the festival atmosphere with bars, food, markets and fun areas for kids.

For the full line-up and band listing times visit www.summer-fest.co.uk.

Our Man in the Bronze Age

HEART FM COLUMN

HEART breakfast show presenters Stuart and Natalie wake you up each weekday morning and write to you each week in MK NEWS.

Last week we caught up with Pixie Lott, you might remember her song Mamma Do.

Well it turns out that Pixie is so close to her Mamma that she travels everywhere with her. She even came to the interview.

Pixie said: "When I'm singing I just need herbal teas and some honey and water, but I always have a couple of bottles of wine on rider, for my mum, so she can join in the fun and if she doesn't drink them she can take them home.'

A lot (get the pun) has been written about Pixie and we wondered what the weirdest thing she'd read about herself was.

Pixie said it was linked to her rider requests.

She added: "One read, Pixie demands green M&Ms and on her rider she has psychology books and a globe and weird things like that - where do they get things like that, do people actually believe it?"

We know Pixie's not necessarily an avid geography fan and agreed the globe was a very random item.

She's always on Twitter, but told us she'd had some issues with it.

'There's been a few incidents including some with boys," she said.

"When I've been pictured with them, especially if they're in the limelight, even if I'm not with them there's instantly rumours.

"Then I get their fans having a go at me on Twitter - it can be a bit intense."

Of course we had to find out who she was talking about. Apparently Joe Jonas from the Jonas Brothers and Danny from McFly. They're all just friends.

Stuart and Natalie are off on holiday for a couple weeks, but Matt Jarvis will be covering the show and keeping you updated on all our celebrity gossip.

You can hear the Heart Breakfast show Monday to Friday from 6am-10am on Heart 103.3FM.

DAILY LIFE

TOMORROW

PUSHCHAIRS in the Park, Furzton Lake. Join us for outdoor adventures whatever the weather. Mud pies, rustic crafts and woodland investigation. Pushchairs optional, wellies essential. Mothers need to have had their six week post-natal GP check before they can attend. Meet at the car park V4, Watling Street, 10-11.30am. E-mail l.woznicki@theparkstrust.com.

FRIDAY

FARMERS' Market, Market Square, Stony Stratford. For fanstastic local produce, 8am to 2pm.

QUARRY face clearing with BTCV Railway Walk Experience, 10.30am-3pm. More vegetation needs to be cleared from the limestone cliff face in the clay pit, and the creation of a natural home for insects. Meet at Church Lees, Great Linford.

SATURDAY

MK RAMBLERS, start at Hartwell Village Hall, School Lane (GR SP789505), for an 11-mile walk via Piddington and Salcey Forest. Walk can be accessed by the 33 bus. Meet at 10am.

NIGHT hike, Ouse Valley Park. Hike the night away and then watch the sun rise against the back drop of the Ouse Valley Park. Meet in the car park off Haversham Road, north of the V6 Grafton Street. Midnight to 5.30am. Costs £1 per person. E-mail l.woznicki@theparkstrust.com.

TRADE fair, Lloyds Court, CMK. JCC-UK is opening its doors for a trade fair in support of small businesses and local charities. This event will bring together small businesses wanting to create awareness, network and increase custom with Milton Keynes shoppers and residents. Costs £45 per table, e-mail event@dmguru.com.

Tell MK NEWS readers about YOUR event

Send details to andy.handley@mk-news.co.uk, or call 01908 689586. Please get the details to us at least two weeks before the event and we will publish them, space permitting.

SUNDAY

STRAWBERRY Tea Party, in aid of people affected by breast cancer and supported by Breast Cancer Care, 1-5pm. Includes charity stalls and activities and business stalls, as well as a raffle with top prizes of a £150 John Lewis Voucher and Samsung Digital Camera. Mursley Playing Fields, Station Road, Mursley.

MK RAMBLERS, meet at the Windmill pub car park, Caldecotte Lake, for lifts to Ashridge Park (Car Park GR SP 976128). Ashridge Boundary walk, 16 miles via Aldbury, Nettleden, Ringshall and Ivinghoe Beacon. Bring packed lunch. Approx start time 9.15am.

THAI Summer Festival, Bradwell Common. Organised by the Thai community in Milton Keynes. An opportunity to experience authentic food, products and culture including Thai classic dancing. Between 10am and 3.30pm. Free. Contact Pat on 01908 676346, 07743 815618, or by e-mail at thecountrymanmk@hotmail.com.

MONDAY

THE Swan @ Salford, Jon's Posh Pub Quiz. Test your knowledge and have a good giggle at the same time. Homemade popcorn on the tables, entry is £2 per person and the quiz starts at 7.30pm.

THE Barge at Woolstone, pub quiz. Join Bryan and the gang for a fun quiz with great prizes while raising money for Willen Hospice. Quiz at 8.45pm, £1 per person.

TUESDAY

CURRY club quiz, Naidni Restaurant, Wolverton Road, Stony Stratford. Enjoy a delicious set meal and quiz, while raising money for good causes. Advanced booking essential, e-mail StonyCurryClub@hotmail.com. Costs £15 per person, 8-11pm.

FLORAL Club, 'Posy Pad' workshop, Methodist Church, Silver Street, Stony Stratford. With Ann Gray, 7.30pm. Visitors £6.

MUSICAL Mania with The Parks Trust. Make your own instruments at Ouse Valley Park and join in a musical morning, 10am-1pm. Booking essential online at www.theparkstrust.com, £3 per child.

WEDNESDAY

BRING and Buy Coffee Mornings, Friends of Stony Stratford Health Centre. Pop in for a cup of coffee or tea and biscuit and have a browse. Donations of cakes, books, bric a brac, etc are always welcome, 9.30-11am.

TEDDY bear making, Frosts at Woburn Sands. You will stuff your own bear and add a magical wish star inside. All bears come with their own certificate and bag. Call 01908 583511 for details.

COMEDY CLUB

HOLD onto your sides as The Red Card Comedy Club is returning to the DoubleTree hotel at stadiummk.

Topping the bill is Joe Rowntree, *pictured*, a former GQ comic of the month.

He's young, fresh, energetic, bubbly, creative and ready for action, and when he bursts onto the stage he demands everybody's attention.

The former Brainiac TV presenter is said to be able to take a cold room and reduce it to fits of laughter, and he recently had a storming show every night on a Comedy Store tour to Dubai.

His effervescent style has quickly made him a circuit favourite.

Also performing is Paul F. Taylor, described as a 'one in a kind comedian'.

He's an instantly watchable performer with craftsmanship more established acts could only dream of.

A whirlwind of energy, he applies impeccable attention to detail to his beautifully crafted one liners, his inventive offbeat observational humour and his playfully engaging delivery.

The third comic on stage will be Eddy Brimson, one of the most in demand acts on the UK comedy circuit.

He played the first ever Altitude Festival in the French Alps in 2008 and the Sydney Cracker Festival in Australia.

He has also taken his comedy to such far flung places as Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Bahrain.

Compere for the night is Mark Felgate, a man with 'unique talents', including ventriloquism.

His wickedly daft sense of humour has endeared him to fans of the comedy circuit and he uses a range of silly voices and noises in his side splitting routines.

Tickets are £11 in advance, or £13 on the door,

For more information check out www.redcardcomedyclub.com.

Doors are 7.30pm and the show starts at 8.45pm.

Leisure or events news? e-mail **editor@mk-news.co.uk** | phone **01908 689595**

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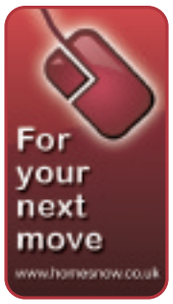

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Germany's Christmas Markets

Departs 24 November 2011

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Includes • Return coach Channel crossings • Three nights' accommodation at a traditional hotel in the Rhine or Moselle Valley area • German buffet breakfasts • Visits to Cochem and Koblenz Christmas Markets • The services of a Tour Manager

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4 days from £155.00

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Includes • Return flights to Amsterdam from Luton • Return airport to hotel transfers • One suitcase allowance per person • 3 nights' B&B at the four-star Mercure, Amsterdam Airport Hotel (upgrade hotel available at a supplement) • Guided walking tour of Amsterdam & Fireworks on Day 2 • Coach transfers back to your hotel after the New Year celebrations • A Tour Manager

4 days from £349.00

Christmas Markets of Lille & Bruges

Departs 10 December 2011

Each year the historic centres of Lille and Bruges are transformed into two of northern Europe's most enjoyable and atmospheric Christmas markets! Join us for this excellent value two-day break.

Includes • Coach travel throughout and return Channel crossings • One night's B&B at a comfortable hotel in the Lille area • Visits to the Christmas markets at Lille and Bruges • The services of a Tour Manager

Single supplement applies

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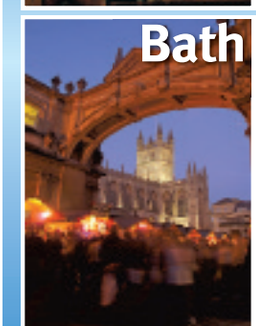

Christmas Market & the Cotswolds

Departs 2 December 2011

Combine the very best of seasonal shopping and entertainment with this break to Bath's famous market and Christmas lights.

Includes • Return coach travel • One night's bed and English breakfast accommodation at the Express by Holiday Inn, Swindon • A visit to Bath Christmas Market • A short tour of the Cotswolds • The services of a Tour Manager

2 days from £79.95

Lincoln Christmas Market

Departs 3 December 2011

Soak up some Yuletide cheer and get the Christmas shopping off to a flying start on this festive break to Lincoln's famous and much-loved Christmas Market.

Includes • Return coach travel • One night's bed and English breakfast accommodation at a good quality hotel • Entrance to the Denby Visitor Centre • A visit to Lincoln Christmas Market • The services of a Tour Manager

Single supplement applies

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Broughton

A STRIKING six double bedroom detached house in a fantastic location.

This stunning house has three reception rooms, as well as an 18ft x 15ft kitchen. The two top floor bedrooms boast private terrace views and there are en-suites from these generous rooms. This could easily be used as a complete master suite with dressing room and his and hers en-suites. In total there are four bathroom/en-suites within the 2,500 sq ft of accommodation. Outside the double garage is complemented with a separate driveway. The property is located near to the M1 access and Kingston centre and is in the catchment for Oakgrove Secondary School.

It is on the market for £499,000 and part exchange is available for a hassle-free move.

To find out more, contact the new homes specialists at Taylors on 01908 677227 and speak to Ben Kennedy.

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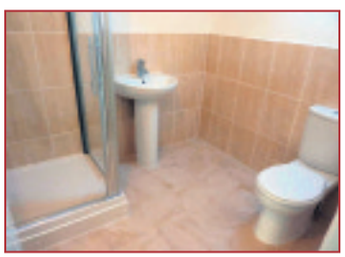

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PUBLIC NOTICE

11 Wandsworth Place, Bradwell Common, MK13 8AH. We are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £122,500. Any interested party must submit any higher offer in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place.

STANTONBURY - FOUR BEDROOMS £124,950

PRICED TO SELL - GREAT VALUE FOR MONEY!!! A VACANT end of terrace family home benefiting from double glazing and gas radiator central heating.

VACANT TERRACE IN WEST BLETCHLEY OFFERS OVER £139,000

QUICK SALE NEEDED on this three bedroom family home with refitted kitchen, lounge/diner, study, conservatory and gardens. MUST BE VIEWED!!

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WESTCROFT - NO CHAIN £124,995

A VACANT ground floor apartment comprising hall, lounge/diner, kitchen with oven, hob and hood, TWO BEDROOMS, bathroom and allocated parking. VIEW NOW!

HEELANDS REDUCED TO £134,995

Located in a quiet cul de sac but within walking distance of all amenities is this well presented end terrace home ideal for first time or investment buyers. THIS PROPERTY MUST BE VIEWED!

MIDDLETON - REDUCED FOR A QUICK SALE £299,950

NO UPWARD CHAIN - Detached family home located in a cul de sac with two receptions, conservatory, en suire, garage and gardens. MUST BE VIEWED!

PEARTREE BRIDGE £99,995

Offered for sale with NO UPWARD CHAIN and IN NEED OF MODERNISATION is this cluster home ideal for first time and investment buyers. VIEW NOW!

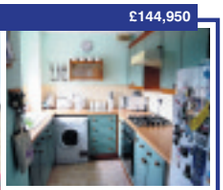
NEWPORT PAGNELL - NO UPWARD CHAIN £164,950

Located in a cul de sac within walking distance of shops and schools is this semi detached home. The accommodation comprises entrance hall, kitchen/breakfast room, lounge/diner, three bedrooms and a bathroom. Outside there is a driveway, a single garage and an enclosed garden to the rear that offers a good degree of privacy. Benefits include PVCu double glazing and gas fired radiator central heating.

STUNNING LOCATION CLOSE TO LAKE REDUCED TO £149,995

Located in the much sought after development of Caldecotte and within walking distance of parkland and the lake is this mid terraced cottage IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT. The property does benefit from gas radiator central heating and comprises two receptions, kitchen, bathroom and two/three bedrooms. To the rear is a mature and well stocked garden that is approximately 100 feet in length.

GREAT HOLM £144,950



A well presented end terrace home entrance hall, kitchen, lounge/diner, TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS, bathroom, garden and parking. MUST BE VIEWED!

NEWPORT PAGNELL OFFERS OVER £150,000

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BROUGHTON £199,995

WELL PRESENTED and GOOD SIZED three bedroom end terrace family home with en suite, garage and gardens. Must be viewed to fully appreciate.

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Bradwell

A two bedroom semi detached bungalow with pleasant,established, secure and fully enclosed gardens and excellent driveway parking for two cars. Close to the original village of Bradwell. Double glazing and NO CHAIN.

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Stony Stratford

In a superb position very close to Stony Stratford High Street, a 3 bedroom end of terrace Victorian property with high ceilings and character features. Pretty gardens, and garage for ease of parking. NO CHAIN.

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Bradwell Common

Just a very short walk to CMK and the railway station for frequent trains to London Euston, this 2 bedroom detached property in excellent decorative order. Ideal first home or investment purchase. No Chain

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Emerson Valley

A nicely presented 2 bedroom bungalow benefiting from gas heating, double glazing, refitted bathroom, low maintenance generous rear garden with space for conservatory. Quiet cul-de-sac position. Nicely presented.

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Neath Hill

A well presented and spacious 3 bedroom 3 storey townhouse conveniently suituated for all local facilities, St Monicas Catholic School, with Central Milton Keynes less than half a mile away. VIEWING ESSENTIAL

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Old Wolverton

On an outstanding corner plot with excellent potential to extend. Pretty, mature front and rear gardens with garage and large greenhouse. A 3 bedroom semi detached house with generous bedrooms with built-in storage. Utility/laundry room, kitchen, through lounge/dining room. CLOSE TO OUSE VALLEY WALK.

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A fantastic detached home of generous proportions and offered in good decorative order throughout. The accommodation is designed to meet the needs of a modern, young, family with a good size, dual aspect, living room, open plan kitchen/ dining/ sun room, cloakroom, master bedroom with walk-in wardrobe and en suite shower room, two further bedrooms and family bathroom. externally there is a fully enclosed, decent size rear garden, off road parking behind twin gates and a single garage. VIEWING STRONGLY RECOMMENDED.

To arrange a viewing of this extraordinary home, please call our specialist team **01908 904222** or **email info@christopherrose.co.uk**

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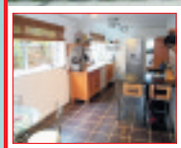
GREAT LINFORD £185,000

- 3 bedrooms
- Semi detached house
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Separate reception rooms
- Utility room/downstairs cloakroom
- Gas to radiator heating
- Off road parking for several cars
- Countryside rear views
- Potential to extend (stpp)

WOLVERTON £240,000

- 4 double bedrooms
- Many original features
- Three reception rooms
- Re-fitted kitchen
- Loft conversion
- En-suite to bedroom One
- Conservatory
- Backing onto Recreation Grounds
- No upper chain

WOLVERTON £180,000



- 3 bedrooms
- Separate reception rooms
- Upstairs bathroom
- Re-fitted kitchen/breakfast room
- Utility room
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Double glazed windows
- Garage at rear

BRADVILLE £170,000

- 3 bedrooms
- Re-furbished semi detached house
- New kitchen and new bathroom
- New gas to radiator central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows & conservatory
- Single garage to the rear
- No upper chain

NEWPORT PAGNELL £140,000

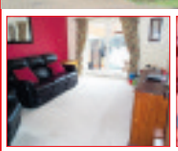
- 2 double bedrooms
- UPVC double glazed conservatory
- Re-fitted kitchen
- Re-fitted bathroom
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Gas to radiator heating
- Allocated parking space
- Enclosed rear garden
- No upper chain

PROPERTY OF THE WEEK

STACEY AVENUE, WOLVERTON £200,000

- 3 bedrooms
- Extended semi detached
- Separate reception rooms
- Re-fitted kitchen
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Utility room
- UPVC double glazing
- Gas to radiator heating
- Off road parking for 4 cars
- Backing onto Wolverton Recreation ground
- No upper chain

WOLVERTON MILL £235,000



- 5 bedrooms
- Modern Townhouse
- Two en-suites
- Separate reception rooms
- Sealed unit double-glazing
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Gas to radiator heating
- Front & rear gardens
- Driveway & garage

WOLVERTON £180,000

- 4 bedrooms
- End of terrace
- Three reception rooms
- Open fireplaces
- Full cellar
- Sealed unit double glazing
- Re-fitted upstairs bathroom
- No upper chain

TWO MILE ASH £150,000

- Two double bedrooms
- Detached house
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- No upper chain
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- 3 bedrooms
- Mid terraced house
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- Gas to radiator heating
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Kitchen/diner
- Enclosed rear garden
- No upper chain

WOLVERTON £170,000

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- 1930s semi detached
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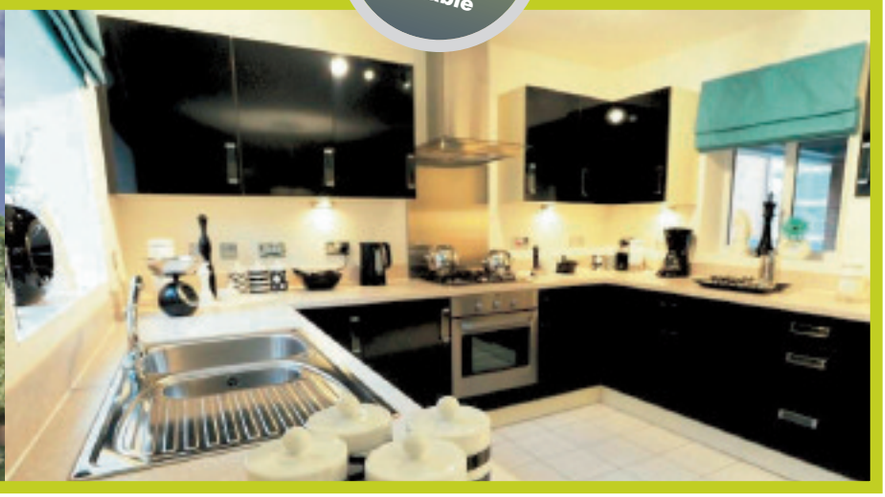

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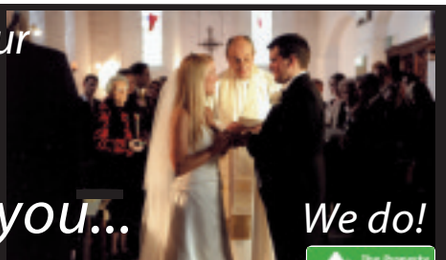

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We currently have the following vacancies:

OPERATIONS ANALYST Marston Gate / Ridgmont, Bedfordshire

We currently have a vacancy for an Operations Analyst reporting to the General Manager, Marston Gate. The successful candidate will produce accurate key operational data for internal and external customers/platforms in a timely manner.

Your main responsibilities will include:
Submit various reporting information on daily, weekly and monthly basis.
Co-ordinate operational data ensuring consistency of information, content and presentation.
Audit and analyse data ensuring accurate information.
Provide recommendations for improvements and change based upon results.
To maintain and develop excellent working relationships with Customers and develop improvements in services offered and prepare and support presentations.
To prepare daily / weekly / monthly profit & loss by contract / work streams.
Operational resource planning in line with CSM (Current State Map) metrics and customer forecasts.
To undertake general project work and continuous improvement (Kaizen) for the General Manager.
Ensure data is gathered and compiled in a format to allow data manipulation and analysis required in a solution design.
Data gathering will be undertaken in a variety of methods including customer visits/customer liaison.
Ensure accurate and timely sales invoices and backing documentation are raised to customer and Yusen UK requirements.

The successful candidate will be highly organised and motivated as this role involves working to strict deadlines. The candidate will have the ability to work under their own initiative and within a team environment. Hold excellent communication and customer service skills and be numerate and IT literate in particular with Excel and PowerPoint.

TRAINEE TRANSPORT OPERATOR Marston Gate / Ridgmont, Bedfordshire

We are looking to recruit a Trainee Transport Operator to be based on the Marston Gate Site on varying shifts. This role will be a junior trainee position and the successful candidate will follow a thorough development programme over the course of a 2 year period in a Transport function.

You will gain real hands on experience whilst following a training programme which will cover briefing and de-briefing the drivers, tachograph legislation and procedures, monitoring the operational plan and ensuring all office administration is carried out efficiently as well. You will need excellent administration and customer care skills.

You should be numerate, IT literate and have the ability to work under pressure. You must also be willing to work towards your CPC qualification and be willing to study towards a transport qualification, have a flexible approach to hours and demonstrate an interest in building a career in Transport and Logistics.Excel and PowerPoint.

Please register your interest by sending your CV, quoting Reference Number RMK147 for the Operations Analyst position and RMK150 for the Trainee Transport Operator position (marked Private & Confidential) and return it to:
The HR Department, Yusen Logistics, Badgers Rise, Prologis Park, Ridgmont, Bedfordshire, MK43 0UL

Alternatively, please e-mail your application to HR.MG2@uk.yusen-logistics.com Closing Date: Friday 5th August 2011

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BEDFORD COLLEGE

Bedford College is a growing and highly successful provider of further, adult and higher education, with 18,000 students from over 100 nationalities, 750 staff and excellent financial health. Recognised as 'outstanding' by Ofsted and rated five star by the European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM), there has never been a more exciting time to join us as we strive to become a world-class centre for qualifications, skills and training.

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Closing Date: Monday 8th August 2011

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Bedford College offers a final salary pension scheme, generous holiday entitlement and financially supported continuous professional development opportunities. The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. For further information on these positions and to find out about working at Bedford College, visit **www.workingtogetherjobs.co.uk**

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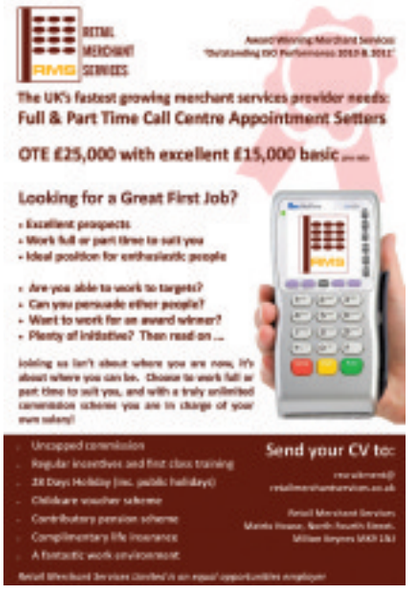
Horizon Health Choices has an exciting new position for a dynamic and motivated individual to join our Information & Technology Department. The successful applicant will be supporting staff delivering high quality services for patients in our clinics that we offer in the Bedfordshire area.

Candidates need to demonstrate good basic IT competency with enthusiasm for this type of role. Providing second and, in some cases, third line IT support duties along with the day to day administration of the IT functions of the organisation to support the IT Manager in the wide range of IT competencies needed by a small and fast growing organisation, including: PC software and hardware support and training (including MS Office); internet and application support; security and information governance; networking (LAN and WAN) and Microsoft Windows server technologies.

For a full job description and to download an application form, please go to our website: www.horizonhealth.co.uk or contact Diane Glendinning on 01234 897555.

Closing date for applications is Monday, 1 August 2011. Please note that any applications received after this date will not be considered.

Candidates must be available for interview on Monday, 8 August 2011.



St Andrew's School Bedford

NURSERY NURSE AND NURSERY ASSISTANT - FULL TIME AND PART TIME

Jumping Jacks Nursery at St Andrew's School is looking for both **Nursery Nurses and Nursery Assistants** to join our successful Nursery team. Our Nursery takes children from six weeks to four years.

The successful Nursery Nurses will have a minimum of NNEB or NVQ Level 3 or equivalent. The Nursery Assistants will need to have experience with young children and training will be provided.

There are full time positions, Monday to Friday, 52 weeks a year with 4 weeks holiday plus bank holidays, as well as some part time positions.

For more details of the posts and application forms please contact Sarah Maycock, Nursery Consultant on 07887 887757 or sarah@topgadgy.com.

Closing date for applications Wednesday 10 August 2011 with interviews on Tuesday 16 August 2011.

St Andrew's School is committed to safe-guarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

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Source: Continental Research 2009: 34% of respondents stated they would use local media as the first source of information when looking for a job compared to recruitment websites 17%.Local media = newspapers websites and supplements.

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Bedford Road, Kempston, Bedford. MK428AA
Tel: 01234 345565 Fax: 01234 327734
Email: stjohnsspecial@schools.bedfordshire.gov.uk
Headteacher: Ron Babbage BA (Hons) PGCE MEd

VACANCIES for September 2011

St John's School provides special education for children and young people with severe, profound and multiple learning difficulties, aged two to nineteen.

RECEPTIONIST - Permanent post

We are looking for an enthusiastic, hard working, well organised person to work on our busy school office reception desk.
Hours of work are 8.30am – 4.30pm daily, term-time only.
Previous reception experience in a busy office is essential and experience in a school office would be desirable.
Rate of pay is £7.72 per hour.

MID-DAY SUPERVISORY ASSISTANTS - Permanent posts

Required to support individual and small groups of pupils over the lunchtime period, 11.45-1.30pm, with feeding, supervision and care needs.
You may be based at any of our three sites, Kempston, Biddenham or Bromham Road in Bedford.
Monday to Friday, term time only. Rate of pay is £6.46 per hour.

LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANTS - Permanent posts

As a team member your role is to support teaching staff and pupils in a wide range of activities during the school day. Previous experience or an interest in Multi-sensory impairment (MSI) would be an advantage
The hours are 32.5 per week, term time only, plus 5 training days.
Rate of pay is £7.75 per hour.

Closing dates for all of these posts: Friday 29th July at 12 noon
Interview date for Receptionist post – Tuesday 2nd August 2011
Interview date for MSA posts – Friday 12th August 2011
Interview date for LSA posts - Tuesday 23rd August 2011.

To obtain an application pack for any of the above posts please send an e-mail request to the school at stjohnsspecial@schools.bedfordshire.gov.uk or for further details, please contact the school office.

St. John's School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and/or vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Working towards equality

BEDFORD SCHOOL

ICT AND AUDIO VISUAL TECHNICIAN

Required to join our team and play a key role supporting the ICT and AV provision in the School.

The role involves specific responsibilities for the maintenance and set up of ICT and AV equipment, as well as digital media tasks relating to the recording of events in School. This will therefore entail working some evenings and weekends.

You will have:

- ICT skills
- Experience of using a range of ICT and AV equipment
- Experience of installing new software
- A knowledge and interest in ICT and technology

Experience of recording and editing video and audio content, as well as the ability to maintain and repair ICT and/or AV equipment, would be advantageous.

Hours are an average of 37 per week all year round including some Saturday mornings during term time.

For further details and an application pack please visit our website.

Bedford Charity is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be subject to an Enhanced CRB check, references and other checks.

www.bedfordschool.org.uk

Closing Date
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Pink colour corner bath all fittings excellent condition. £49 Tel: 07766 921460, 07900 872812

Stable Mats. Offers. 100+ six 60"x40"x1/2", rubber. Buyer collects. Tel 01908 210171. Very Heavy.

Victorian Repro Mahogany Table like new, square enlarged to oblong seats 8 £55 call 01908 365665

Pink colour sink with taps, all fittings. £39 Tel: 07766 921460, 07900 872812

LG fridge freezer frost free white brand new 8' high top of range retail £479 sell for £299 07956498220/07900872812

MOBILITY SCOOTER Brand new, used once, 8mph, full suspension, lights, indicators, captain seat, 2 yr warranty, cost £3500 will accept £1500, call 01252 815756 Trade.

Petrol lawn mower rotary with drive excellent condition. £70 Tel: 07944 010272

Tumble Dryer, 3kg capacity. Very good condition. £49 Tel: 07737631189

Portable Air Conditioning Unit retail £225 selling for £49 call 07956498220/07900872812

Hotpoint washing machine silver ex con £139 (others from) £99 07956498220/07900872812

Back Gammon Game £5 call 01908 671394

Solid Oak dining room table
4 leather brown chairs, mint condition from John Lewis £1900, 18 months old, sell for
£625
01908 322688

Kitchen Work Top 2230 x 600 x 60mm Granite effect, satin new and unused £35 01908 675690

Bath Mixer Taps chrome brand new £99 wicks selling for £39 call 07956498220/07900872812

Bath Panel Wooden all fittings brand new retail £129 selling for £44 call 07956498220/07900872812

Radiator towel rail retail £119 selling for £49 brand new call 07956498220/07900872812

Henri Style fridge freezer 2mths old £139 (bargain) other available from £89 07956498220/07900872812

Zanussi washing machine ex condition £139 07956498220/07900872812

Copper kettle £25.00. Tel: 01908 671394

Toshiba Blue ray disc player ex con £45 call for details 01908 322688

Extractor fan brand new argos price £399 sell for £199 07956498220/07900872812

Kitchen Sink with taps white £39 call 07956498220/07900872812

Creda brown electric cooker 50cm £119 (others from £94) 07956498220/07900872812

A Articles For Sale

Under Counter Fridge £49 call 07766921460, 07783976363

Beautiful Fire Side Chair fire resistant bought from John Lewis £45 01908 315357

32" Sony TV Flatscreen - not LCD or Plasma call 07956498220/07900872812

Toilet with seat brand new complete £29 call 07956498220/07900872812

Fishing Tackle rods,reels, accessories, box & reel spares £35 07925 318111

Dining Table (round steel) brand new £49 call 07956498220/07900872812

Golf clubs £5 each new golf balls 3 for £2.00 Other golf accessories Tel: 01908 671394

Garden Games Plastic Bowls, Hoopler, Standing Netball Hoop, £3 each 01908 671394

Kitchen Sink with taps white £39 call 07956498220/07900872812

Letter Box brand new £29 call 07956498220/07900872812

A Articles For Sale

Bosh dishwasher white top of range hardly used ex con £139 07956498220/07900872812

Pine Wardrobe 2 sliding doors 39" wide buyer to collect £40 01908 315357

Henry & Dyson 07 excellent working order £40 each call 07929 257686

Under Counter Fridge £49 call 07766921460, 07783976363

Candy washing machine good condition £119 07956498220/07900872812

Stove gas cooker green 60cm £129 07956498220/07900872812

Bosh tumble dryer £109 (others from £79) 07956498220/07900872812

TV Glass Corner Unit £25 call 01908 528181 after 8pm

Heavy Duty Front Door Good Condition £49 Call 07737 631189

Table Top Fridge Excellent Condition, £49 Call 07737 631189

Sky Digibox HD £44 call 07956498220/07900872812

Pewter Set tray, teapot, jug £25 call 01908 671394

2 Wing Armchairs light green £25 each 07866111944

Panasonic DVD recorder £40 call 01908 322688

Lite - On DVD recorder £35 call 01908 322688

Chess Set pieces £3 call 01908 671394

Wooden play bricks - 3+ years old £10 01908 671394

Extractor fan silver ex condition £49 Call 07956 498220/07900872812

Badminton Rackets £5 each call 01908 671394

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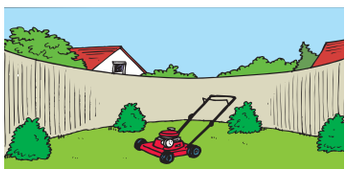

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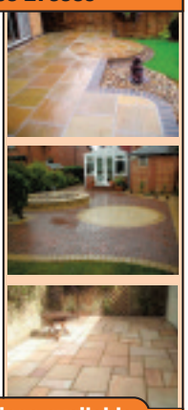

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41YR old busty blonde, seeking discreet male for uncomplicated mutual friendship with benefits! Any age. Call me you have nothing to lose. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 363301**

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BLONDE blue eyed single female, 34, discreet, OHAC, looking for fun friendship with confident man, 38-60 wanting fun times also. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 362863**

ATTRACTIVE caring blue eyed blonde, 40, enjoys intimate nights in, looking for some good company, looks/age unimportant. Can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 363267**

VOLUPTUOUS attractive tanned, well groomed blonde 39, looking for good times, pampering, massages and discreet friendship. ACA. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 361751**

OLD slim curvy dark haired female with a GSOH, loves to spend time indoors and the simple things, WLTM similar male, 38-46yrs. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 370057**

CURVY sporty female, 35, tall, leggy and blonde, cultured, classy WLTM mature male, 40-65yrs who is special enough to share my life. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 370039**

BEAUTIFUL brunette, slim with curves in all the right places seeking male to share special intimate fun times together. Can travel/accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 364875**

TALL slim brunette with baby blue eyes seeks strong, sensitive male who knows how and wants to enjoy life too. Can travel/accommodate. 33-47yrs. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 367979**

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NAUGHTY 40, social, attractive and slim, new to the dating scene and looking for someone similar for fun relationship/meetings. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 370061**

STUNNING full figured blonde nurse, 32, funny and romantic, WLTM uncomplicated, reliable male, 50-65yrs for companionship and more. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 369221**

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SINGLE female 49, slim build, 5ft 7ins, brown hair/eyes, OHAC, likes nights out, country, seaside, WLTM male from Luton only. **Tel No: 0905 436 0866 Box No: 371907**

DEBS petite brunette, 38yrs, well travelled, loves food and good wine, WLTM affectionate male for nice times. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0905 436 0866 Box No: 372219**

JAN 46, 5ft 6ins, slim-medium build, cropped blonde hair, outgoing, sociable, confident, likes meals out, badminton, bowling, swimming, walks, holidays, seeks genuine guy 38-48. Bucks/Berks. **Tel No: 0905 436 0866 Box No: 371155**

YOUNG looking petite female prepared to try anything once, looking for similar open-minded tactile guy for fun loving times. **Tel No: 0905 436 0866 Box No: 372217**

30'S blonde blue eyed fit female, looking for solvent, fit gent, 45-56yrs who like me appreciates the finer things in life. **Tel No: 0905 436 0866 Box No: 372215**

OLD school lady, 40's, GSOH, romantic, caring sincere, looking for love of my life for friendship, possible relationship. Must be old school and N/S. **Tel No: 0905 436 0866 Box No: 371817**

PEACHY sweet green eyed blonde, youthful 45, looks 35, widely travelled, seeks likeminded, professional male, 30-50 for friendship and more. Buckinghamshire. **Tel No: 0905 436 0866 Box No: 371375**

PAT brown hair/eyes, 5ft 8ins, honest, sincere, caring, likes walks, meals out, dancing, cinema, bowling, seeks similar N/S male, 49-59 for friendship, maybe more. Essex. **Tel No: 0905 436 0866 Box No: 371281**

51YR old divorced female, likes music, meals out, period dramas, seeks male for happiness and similar interests. **Tel No: 0905 436 0866 Box No: 364265**

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. **Tel No: 0905 436 0866 Box No: 384852**

ELLEN 58, slim, attractive, auburn hair, blue eyes, old fashioned, happy go lucky, honest, loyal, trustworthy, seeks similar N/S male, 58 plus. Luton. **Tel No: 0905 436 0866 Box No: 370277**

GENUINE lady, seeks genuine male, 56-62 to share leisure time, maybe more. Aylesbury. **Tel No: 0905 436 0866 Box No: 371395**

SINGLE confident black female 32yrs, very attractive with a great body! Loves doing fun and interesting things, seeking a real man. Any race/age. **Tel No: 0905 436 0866 Box No: 367999**

ACTIVE slim female 30yrs, easy-going, honest with GSOH and a passion for life looking for genuine man to fall for, 28-50yrs. **Tel No: 0905 436 0866 Box No: 370097**

BEAUTIFUL size 10 figured female, brown hair, big brown eyes 41yrs looking for relaxed relationship with younger man, 20-38yrs. **Tel No: 0905 436 0866 Box No: 370091**

LOVING fun caring 36yr old tactile female with many likes and interests, looking for tactile, fun male to enjoy loving relationship. **Tel No: 0905 436 0866 Box No: 370043**

BRIGHT bubbly chatty brunette with lots to offer to the right person looking for new love who will appreciate a real woman. **Tel No: 0905 436 0866 Box No: 371579**

ATTRACTIVE petite oriental female with no ties WLTM nice respectable man for a loving relationship. Can accommodate. **Tel No: 0905 436 0866 Box No: 371577**

CONFIDENT and cultured lady, young 39, very attractive, slim and fit seeks mature male, 45-65yrs for wining, dining and more. ACA. **Tel No: 0905 436 0866 Box No: 371575**

GENUINE lady, seeks genuine male, 56-62 to share leisure time, maybe more. Aylesbury. **Tel No: 0905 436 0866 Box No: 371395**

ATTRACTIVE 50yr old fun loving, kind, caring, likes walks, cinema, DVDs, meals out, seeks 50ish male. **Tel No: 0905 436 0866 Box No: 330217**

TANNED brunette, confident, slim, enjoying life to the full, looking for male up to 43yrs for fun times only. **Tel No: 0905 436 0866 Box No: 370041**

CURVY sporty female, 35, tall, leggy and blonde, cultured, classy WLTM mature male, 40-65yrs who is special enough to share my life. **Tel No: 0905 436 0866 Box No: 370039**

26YR old social pretty blonde with baby blue eyes and great figure, seeks outgoing, fun, spontaneous male for friendship/more. **Tel No: 0905 436 0866 Box No: 369219**

SLIM attractive white female, bubbly, easygoing, seeks Afro Caribbean gent, 50-60. **Tel No: 0905 436 0866 Box No: 367761**

CHEEKY brunette, seeks much male to have some fun with. **Tel No: 0905 436 0866 Box No: 377306**

ATTRACTIVE slim professional 35yrs seeking similar lonely professional for drinks/meals out and mutual friendship out of hours. **Tel No: 0905 436 0866 Box No: 370089**

41YR old blonde, seeking male for uncomplicated mutual friendship with benefits! Any age. Call me you have nothing to lose. **Tel No: 0905 436 0866 Box No: 363301**

single men

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TAUREAN seeks N/S rock n roll chick who can keep pace, aged 50 plus. Dunstable area. **Tel No: 0905 436 0866 Box No: 371847**

SINGLE fun, outgoing male, likes nights in/out, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0905 436 0866 Box No: 371983**

55YRS 6ft 2ins, stocky built, good looking with bright blue eyes, seeks slim/medium built female with similar interests. Any age/race. **Tel No: 0905 436 0866 Box No: 371839**

BEN 45, 6ft 8ins, own business, seeks female for LTR. **Tel No: 0905 436 0866 Box No: 372245**

FRIENDLY English guy 51, N/S, seeks large build black/Asian lady for dates and adult fun. Slough. **Tel No: 0905 436 0866 Box No: 372081**

MALE seeks young lady for fun relationship. **Tel No: 0905 436 0866 Box No: 371995**

48YR old male, 6ft, slim, loyal, confident, seeks female, 30-60 for LTR. Milton Keynes. **Tel No: 0905 436 0866 Box No: 372037**

39 frustrated athletic ex military male, seeks slim female, age/status unimportant for discreet manoeuvres. Oxford. **Tel No: 0905 436 0866 Box No: 371869**

ASIAN male, 40, tall, slim, athletic, likes music, sports, gym, shopping, seeks white female, 30-45 for friendship and fun. **Tel No: 0905 436 0866 Box No: 371241**

WHITE male, 50, 5ft 10ins, fair hair, blue eyes, solvent, seeks nice lady. **Tel No: 0905 436 0866 Box No: 370795**

LIBERTINE seeks female for uninhibited fun, any age/looks/status. Can travel/accom. Birmingham. **Tel No: 0905 436 0866 Box No: 371173**

ROBERT seeks young female, 18-32 for fun and friendship. Stevenage. **Tel No: 0905 436 0866 Box No: 371343**

MALE 38, slim, 5ft 8ins, attractive, honest, caring, genuine, GSOH, N/S, seeks female for friendship and fun. **Tel No: 0905 436 0866 Box No: 371251**

MALE 52, looking for the larger lady in life, size 14-20 for fun. Bishop Stortford. **Tel No: 0905 436 0866 Box No: 369107**

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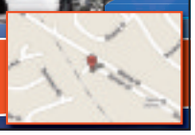

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LOCAL CRICKET

MORRANTS FOUR COUNTIES LEAGUE

Division One

MK CITY beat Olney Town by three wickets as cricket action returned following last week's rain.

Olney were asked to bat and posted 169/8, with Andrew Griffin's 58 the top score.

Mohammed Shahid took 4/48 for City who reached their target after 40.5 overs.

Six of the top seven failed to score higher than 18 but 75 from opener Jin Lall saw City home.

They remain second in the table after leaders North Crawley saw off Studham by seven wickets.

Richard Braybrook shone with 6/34 as Studham slumped to 127 all out, and North Crawley needed just 24 overs to race home.

James Armstrong blasted a better than a run a ball 43 and Glenn Young finished unbeaten on 32 in the comfortable win.

New Bradwell sit fourth after a 58-run win away at Biddenham after the visitors scored 217/9.

After a slow start number seven Naseem Malik scored 73 to push up the total and Biddenham were unable to get near, falling well short on 159 all out despite an unbeaten 76 from Alan Brown.

Milton Keynes CC suffered a massive 135 run home defeat to third placed Eaton Bray, who scored 222/9, largely thanks to Paul Harris who was dismissed ten runs short of a century.

MK then had a nightmare with the bat as they were skittled for just 87 after 22 overs.

Newport Pagnell enjoyed a comfortable 98 run win over Elstow, with James Fletcher's 87 and Brian Schmidt's 70 the high points in their total of 242/6.

Fletcher then took 3/24 with the ball as Elstow struggled to 144 all out.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE CRICKET LEAGUE

Premier Division

IT WAS a match to forget for Stony Stratford who fell to a massive 151 run loss at Peterborough Town.

George Humphries took 4/34 after Stony were asked to field but the other bowlers proved to be expensive.

David Clarke's 75 and Lewis Bruce's unbeaten 61 took Peterborough to a competitive total of 263/7 after 53 overs had been bowled.

In reply Stony lost star man Sharn Gomes for just three after the opener was run out and after that Mihir Choksi's 44 was the only score of any note.

The next highest contribution was 17 by Jarrod Pretorius as Stony's innings failed to click into gear.

Paul McMahon took 4/14 for Peterborough and Bashrat Hussain claimed 3/16 as Stony were eventually dismissed for just 112.

Six of the Stony batsmen were given out LBW.

CHERWELL LEAGUE

Division One

BLETCHLEY Town were beaten for the second time this season by Oxford and Bletchingdon Nondescripts who won by 57 runs at Manor Fields.

Oxford were inserted by Bletchley and Mark Roberts had a good day with the ball, taking 5/44 as the visitors were restricted to 171.

However, Bletchley were bowled out for 114 after Ayaz Khan excelled with figures of 5/24.

BASKETBALL

New Lion hopes to lead rankings

NEW Lions signing Daniel Northern has a clear target for his first season in Britain – he wants to be one of the best in the league.

Coach Mike New has swooped to secure the signature of the 6'9" power forward and the 25-year-old can't wait to get started.

Speaking exclusively to MK NEWS from his home in Atlanta, Georgia, the American said he had set his sights high.

"I love to lead leagues, especially in rebounds and blocks," he said.

"I had a look at the British Basketball League statistics and the leader for blocks has an average of two per game and guys near the top of the rebounds list have an average of nine.

"My target would be to have an average of three blocks, and ten rebounds."

Northern, a graduate of Tennessee Tech University, is a key figure at both ends of the court and prides himself in both defence and attack.

He is due to arrive in Milton Keynes in September and hopes strong personal performances will help propel the team towards the play-offs.

"My main goal is to help put the team in the best condition to compete," he said. "And obviously I want to win."

Last season, Northern played his basketball for Mallorca in Spain and he has also enjoyed seasons in Finland and Uruguay.

His only taste of British soil is touching down at a London airport on route to a tournament overseas but he is keen to get to know the country more.

He said: "I'm coming to a place where the language won't be a problem and I can just concentrate on playing basketball.

"I can't wait to start and I'm really excited about coming to play in England."

A link between Northern's agent and New helped set up the switch and the coach is ecstatic with the new addition to his roster.

He said: "I think that Daniel is tailor made to do well in this league.

"He is very athletic, he rebounds extremely well, he has been the defensive anchor on every team that he has played on and he can score without having to run plays for him, he is every coach's dream."

New added that finding a player motivated by rebounding was 'rare'.

"He changes ends of the floor effortlessly. I am very excited to have Daniel and I am looking for big things from him," he said.

Northern is the second confirmed name on the Lions roster after British point guard Stefan Gill agreed to sign up for a second campaign in the city.

Chief executive Vince Macaulay is looking forward to the first tip off.

He said: "We are very focussed on what we need for our team to be successful this season.

"Daniel brings a strong defensive presence and hits the glass with a vengeance, that will excite our fans and help us improve from where we were last year."

FORMULA ONE

Mark Webber leads Sebastian Vettel during a frustrating German Grand Prix for Red Bull

Red Bull drivers raise doubts about car's performance

RED Bull drivers Sebastian Vettel and Mark Webber raised doubts about the performance of their cars after a second straight grand prix passed without a win for the city-based team.

Lewis Hamilton claimed victory at Germany's Nurburgring after a superb drive in his McLaren and Red Bull had to settle for just a third placed finish by Australian driver Webber.

World champion Vettel missed the podium entirely at his home grand prix after coming home in fourth place.

His lead at the top of the championship standings is still a healthy 77 points, but Red Bull are perfectionists so the two race sequence represents a real blip.

The cars seem to have lost their dominant edge and they have now been beaten for pace at the last two races, Germany and the British Grand Prix at Silverstone.

Vettel started the race from third after his worst qualifying performance of the season and lost a lot of time after spinning on lap nine.

He won five of the season's first six races but has now won just one of the last four.

"I think fourth was probably our maximum today, which is not satisfying," he said.

"We need to work harder on our car to get back on to the podium, and maybe on to the top step again.

"We have to accept that today other people were quicker than us, and surely I'm not happy, I'm not satisfied.

"There is homework to do, as McLaren and Ferrari were very quick in the race and we need to come back to the pace they have."

Webber, who started on pole and lost the lead to Hamilton on the first bend, added: "The last two races we've been done and we've not had much to punch back with.

"I was pushing to the limit, but there wasn't much more we could do to challenge for the victory."

Vettel and Webber still occupy the top two places in the championship and the German's lead still looks unassailable, but the team's rivals have been given a glimpse of hope.

Ferrari driver Fernando Alonso, second in Germany and fourth in the standings overall, said that he expects to challenge Vettel over the remainder of the season, which continues this weekend in Hungary.

Red Bull team principal Christian Horner said: "Obviously three and four from one and three on the grid isn't really the result we were looking for, but it's still a lot of points for both drivers."

SPORTSSHORTS

ATHLETICS

LONG jumper Greg Rutherford claimed second place at a meeting in Lucerne but he believes there is more in the tank.

The Milton Keynes athlete's distance of 8.09m, assisted by a slight tail wind, was only behind Moroccan Yahya Berrabah's 8.18m but Rutherford described it as an 'average distance'.

He said: "It didn't go too well."

Meanwhile, a championship best performance of 11.52s by Abi Oyepitan (Shaftesbury Barnet) pushed MK's Kadi-Ann Thomas (11.76s) down to second in the 100m at the Birmingham Games, with Joey Duck (11.85s) in fourth. In the 200m Kadi pulled off a surprise result in the B race to win in 24.35s which would have placed her just ahead of fourth placed Duck (24.41s) in the A race.

In the 100m hurdles Chloe Whalley (14.90s) came home in sixth position.

BADMINTON

ENGLAND'S badminton stars have been handed tough draws in the opening rounds of the World Championships, which get underway at Wembley Arena on August 8.

A number of players based at the city's National Badminton Centre are gearing up for the tournament but will have to do it the hard way if they are going to make an impact.

Mixed doubles pair Nathan Robertson and Jenny Wallwork are England's only seeds across the five events, and are likely to face tough Malaysian pair Peng Soon Chan and Liu Ying Goh in round two after receiving a first round bye.

Rajiv Ouseph drew 2001 runner-up Peter Gade, a player he has not taken a game from in six attempts.

For full details of the draw see www.mk-news.co.uk.

BASEBALL

MK BUCKS are hoping to secure Championship glory on Sunday.

Two wins over defending champions Leicester Blue Sox will see the Bucks take over the reigns as AA Midlands champions.

Doing so would give Bucks the chance to face other regional winners in play-offs, which could lead to a match for the AA National Championship.

The double header gets underway at Woughton on the Green at noon.

SWIMMING

SWIMMERS from the Bletchley-based South Beds Masters club have won a huge haul of medals at recent meetings.

The total includes five golds at the Barnet Distance Meet and an incredible 30 at the West Suffolk Masters in Bury St Edmunds.

At this event an amazing 12 new club records and a host of personal best times were set, and the ever-successful ladies relay team excelled by claiming two east region records.

The club was awarded the Best Visiting Club prize for their efforts.

■ For more on these stories, and more sports news, log on to www.mk-news.co.uk/sport.

MKSPORT

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New Lion Dan is here to win – page 67

Kranjcar cracker steals the show as Dons push Spurs stars in goal feast

BY DAN PALMER
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PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY

MK DONS	3
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR XI	5

DONS were just edged out by a strong Tottenham side in a eight-goal thriller at *stadiummk* last night.

Karl Robinson's side went in two down at half time but there was a goal spree in the second half of the action-packed friendly.

The home side were without French defender Mathias Kouo-Doumbe who hobbled off during Saturday's 1-0 friendly defeat at Oxford United, and new signing Dean Bowditch was still missing after failing to shake off a groin problem.

However, goalkeeper David Martin was able to take his place between the sticks after recovering from a shoulder knock and midfielders Jay O'Shea and Darren Potter made their first home starts for the club.

Although billed as an XI, there were several recognisable names in the Tottenham line-up, with Vedran Corluka, David Bentley, Niko Kranjcar, Roman Pavlyuchenko and Jermain Defoe all taking to the field for the Premier League club.

A healthy crowd of 16,189 turned out to see the Dons play their illustrious opponents, leading to delays at the turnstiles which put the kick-off time back by ten minutes. When the action finally got underway Defoe didn't take long to show his threat.

He first raced through on Martin's goal and was only inches away from getting his shot away. The home side then needed the offside flag to come to their rescue when the England man was poised to smash home Nathan Byrne's cross from close range. Dons were not afraid to play their usual brand of neat passing football and dissected Spurs' back four with well-placed through balls on a couple of occasions, only to be stopped in their tracks by the offside flag.

It was a different story at the other end though when two of the visitors' better known players combined to open the scoring with just under ten minutes played.

Croatian Kranjcar slid a pinpoint pass through several Dons bodies which found Pavlyuchenko, who cooly finished high past Martin.

Dons could have hit back quickly when Stephen Gleeson combined with O'Shea on the left flank, but the winger's shot was straight at David Button, before Defoe was foiled by a superb last ditch tackle by MacKenzie.

In what was increasingly becoming an end-to-end affair, Baldock then struck the inside of the post after being rolled in by Luke Chadwick, with the ball flying across the box and away from the danger zone.

But while the Dons were more than holding their own against some obvious class, they went 2-0 down when Pavlyuchenko, a constant menace in the first half, found the net again after 36 minutes.

The striker latched onto another Kranjcar through ball and finished emphatically from a tight angle, though there was more than a hint of offside about the goal.

Dons made the perfect start to the second half when Chadwick reduced the arrears on 47 minutes, the midfielder beautifully curling a shot past Button from the edge of the box.

A fired-up home side sensed a way back but Martin had to be at his best to tip away a shot from Andros Townsend, who was looking for an end product after a superb solo run.

The equaliser duly arrived on 72 minutes when a Baldock shot rebounded into the path of Daniel Powell, who fired an effort back in on Button's goal.

Substitute Jabo Ibehre nipped in front of the Spurs keeper and prodded the ball into the back of the net to level things up.

Dons had shown great spirit to level against a Tottenham side who kept their stars on the pitch, but they were unable to hold on.

Neither could Martin as he fumbled a fierce strike by Kranjcar, and Harry Kane, who had come on for Defoe, slid home the loose ball.

Kranjcar then stole the show with an exceptional long range strike on 81 minutes which rifled past a static Ian McLoughlin, who had come on as a late sub for Martin, and remarkably there was still time for two more goals.

Ibehre raced through and slotted past Button and Kane then added a second with a composed finish past McLoughlin.

WOODWORK: Sam Baldock thumps the Tottenham upright

Log on to www.mk-news.co.uk for a picture gallery from the game.

Dons: Martin (McLoughlin 79), Lewington, MacKenzie, Gleeson, Potter (Flanagan 46), S.Baldock, Chicksen, Williams (G.Baldock 75), Powell, O'Shea (Ibehre 60), Chadwick (Guy 61).

Tottenham XI: Button (Archer 85), Byrne, Rose, Livermore (Luongo 46) Veljkovic, Corluka, Bentley, Kranjcar, Pavlyuchenko, Defoe (Kane 75), Townsend. Unused subs: Mason, Carroll, Obika.

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